

AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 50

JUNE 1988

**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173,
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**CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT)
AFGHANISTAN**

**AFGHANISTAN REPORT:
JUNE 1988**

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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

**IJAZ S. GILANI
FAZAL-UR-RAHMAN**

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ACRONYMS

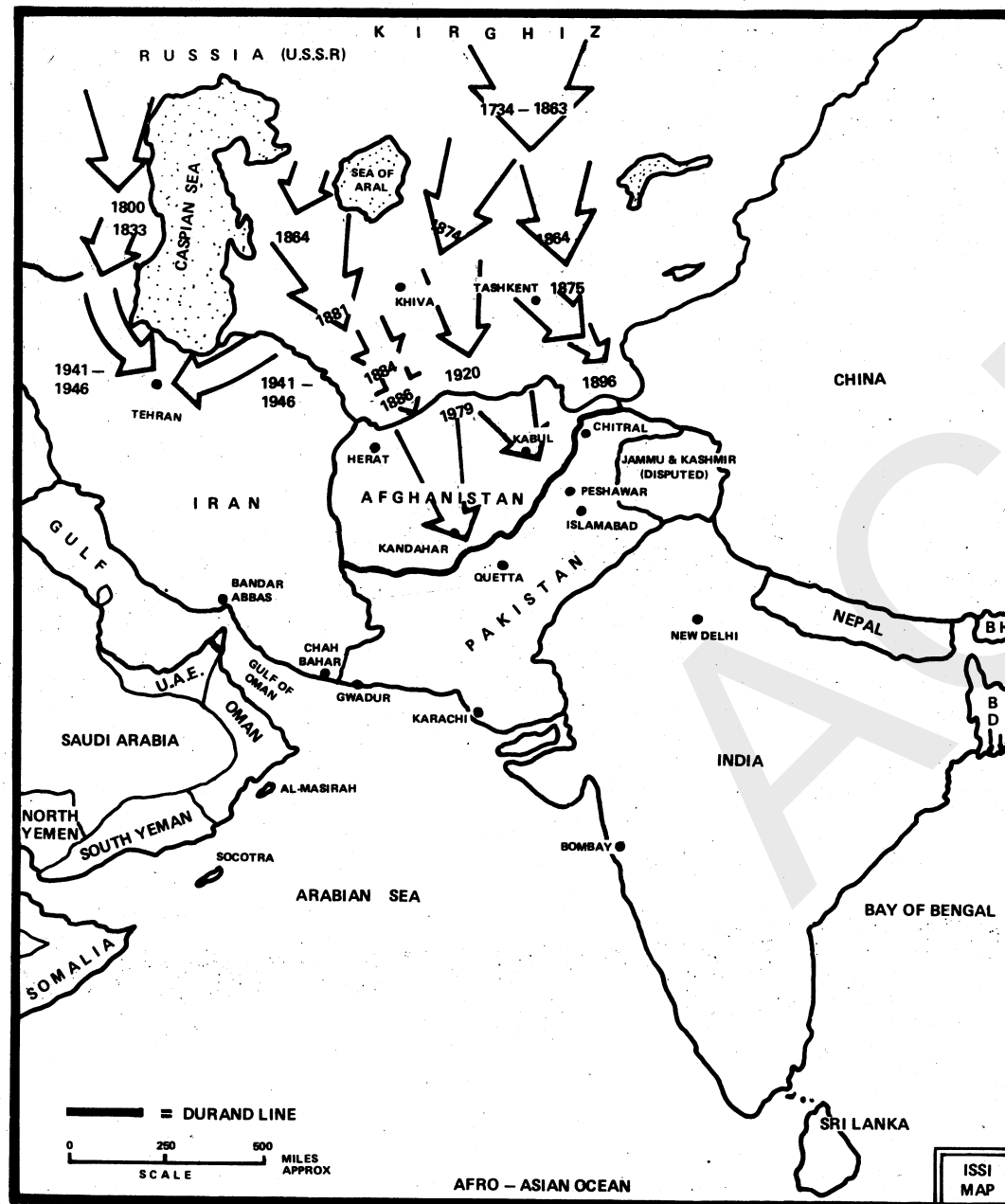
AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
NVDP	=	Ningarhar Valley Development Project.
NRP	=	National Reconciliation Policy.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



I.— THE FOURTH AFGHAN WAR

1 — SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE (see map Appendix 7)

Mujahideen sources reported 266 incidents in 26 out of 30 provinces of Afghanistan during May 1988. Of these 53 were Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 178 strikes on immobile targets.

Soviet-Kabul forces conducted at least 14 air and 21 ground strikes against Mujahideen fixed positions or mobile groups.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Kabul, Paktiya and Baghlan provinces, followed by Qandahar, Ningarhar and Ghazni. A noteworthy feature of the month was that the Soviet-Kabul forces did not use airforce in 21 provinces for combat purposes. Mujahideen sources reported 14 incidents in 9 provinces where Soviet-built aircraft were involved in any combat related activity.

The Mujahideen sources did not report any ground operations by Soviet-Kabul forces in central Afghanistan and provinces adjoining Kabul.

On the whole the Soviet-Kabul forces remained on the defensive in May 1988. No large scale military campaign was initiated or conducted by the Soviet-Kabul troops except the one in Hilmand. This, in fact, was a continuation of fighting mainly in the vicinity of Sangeen which the Mujahideen had taken in April.

It also seemed that Soviet built aircraft discontinued "routine" bombardment of civilian population in the village. The number of total airstrikes against Mujahideen was comparably low. These incidents took place in 9 provinces: Hilmand, Ningarhar, Paktiya, Kabul and Wardak, Ghazni, Faryab, Kapisa and Ghor.

The Mujahideen were particularly active in Baghlan, Kabul, Qandahar and Takhar provinces.

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 15 provincial capitals including the major cities Qandahar, Hilmand and Kabul.

Defections: A significant increase in defections to the Mujahideen ranks was reported from all parts where the Soviet-Kabul troops and the Mujahideen engaged themselves in combat. The low moral of the Kabul regime soldiers had touched a new low with the withdrawal of Russian troops from certain garrison towns and strong points. The defections were certainly facilitated by an Amnesty Declaration of the Mujahideen Alliance that all those who switch over to their side at this stage would be pardoned. General Fazil Ahmed former Head of the

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, in the preparation of this part of the monthly report.

Afghan Ministry of Defence Logistics Cell joined the Mujahideen on May 24 in Herat.

Owing to a number of factors sizeable defections took place in various Afghan provinces particularly in Qandahar, Ghazni, Paktika, Pakiya, Baghlan, Herat and Farah provinces.

It is difficult to draw a demarcation line between cases of outright defection and incidents where Kabul troops surrendered after token exchange of fire.

Combat coverage by Kabul sources

There was a notable increase in Soviet-Kabul media coverage of the Afghan war in May, particularly after the Soviet troops started pulling out.

Month wise war coverage by Kabul Radio

Month	Security forces operations	"Extremist" operations	Total Engagements	In how many provinces
May 1988	50	51	101	19
Apr. 1988	18	21	39	11
Mar. 1988	8	10	18	11
Feb. 1988	15	7	22	9

Various factors might have contributed to the increase in coverage.

Firstly, the Kabul regime wants to show to their domestic and foreign clients that "the country's security forces (still) react strongly to extremist groups" ... and foil their conspiracies". Major General Zabihullah Ziyarmal told a Pravda correspondent that "the combat readiness of the Afghan armed forces is adequate... they are capable of defending cities like Jalalabad."

Ziyarmal who is the chief of Afghan army's main political directorate added that: "We are taking measures with due regard to a possible unfavourable development of events."

Radio Kaubl stated that in May 1988 the security forces conducted 49 operations in 17 provinces. "In these operations 41 enemy hideouts were captured or destroyed and 223 counter revolutionary elements were wiped out."

Secondly, this coverage may have been a reflection of their desire to show that they are observing the Geneva Accords, while the "opposition elements" are still continuing "subversive activities". As Ziyarmal puts it: "everything remains as it was with the armed opposition."

In this regard Radio Kabul sources add up to 51 incidents of subversion committed by the Counter Revolutionary Elements in some 12 Afghan provinces. According to Radio Kabul reports 60 people were killed and 128 wounded in these incidents.

General Abdul Motalib's demise

In its May 18 Pushto news bulletin, Radio Kabul announced that Brigadier General Abdul Motalib had been seriously injured while discharging his duties on the outskirts of Qandahar and that he was taken to an armed forces hospital. Here he succumbed to his injuries. His funeral was attended by the Interior Minister, the Army Chief of Staff and other senior army and party officials.

The same day Radio Kabul also reported that a group of "Gulbadin" band clad in Afghan military uniforms were found involved in terrorist activities in Qandahar province. Kabul Radio said the band was wiped out.

Lizichev estimates Soviet losses in Afghanistan

At a press conference in Moscow on May 25, General Lizichev, Chief of the Main Political Directorate of Soviet Army officially disclosed figures about Soviet dead and wounded in Afghanistan. He told journalists that the Soviet people honoured the memory of their sons who gave their lives while carrying out their "international military duty" in Afghanistan. He said: "You know that military action is military action: It inevitably involves losses. These losses are considerable. In all, we lost in Afghanistan by the beginning of May this year:

13,310 men killed,

35,478 wounded, and

311 missing."

Figures of troops and equipment withdrawn from Afghanistan

At the May 25 news conference in Moscow, General Lizichev also announced: "As of 25th May, 9,500 officers and men have returned to the Motherland, and about 1,000 units of military equipment have been withdrawn."

At another press conference in Moscow on May 26, Soviet Deputy Defence Minister Akhromeyev mentioned withdrawal of 70 helicopters from Afghanistan. He stated that "by May 15, 1988, the contingent of Soviet troops amounted to 100,300."

2 — MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

Pullout progress reviewed by Soviet sources

As the process of pullout began in Afghanistan on May 15, it attracted the attention of all sections of Soviet media. Difficulties in the process of withdrawal, vulnerability of the returning Soviet troops, and complexity of the situation on the whole were discussed. Moscow News carried an interview of a senior Soviet army official on May 15. Talking to analyst Teplyakov about troops pullout, General Vladimir Lobov said:

"Transport in Afghanistan is poorly developed and works intensively to meet economic needs. Roads are only for motor transport and are very difficult. In Afghanistan the difficulties are aggravated by geographic and climatic conditions. The activity of armed formations must not be disregarded either. The reactionaries are already intensively preparing for a "war on the roads". Stocks of anti tank and anti infantry mines and surprise mines are being laid in on the territory of Afghanistan. Dushman's attacks are quite possible on mountain passes, as are all sorts of subversive acts. A column on the march is the most vulnerable... We and our Afghan friends are foreseeing all possible measures, including the troops readiness for action under the most complicated conditions. If a battle is pressed on us, we shall not avoid it."

The interviewer, Teplykov, drew the following analogy: "In May 1945, when the Great Patriotic War was coming to an end, the death of every soldier on the threshold of victory was a particularly painful event. A similar situation, most likely, now exists in Afghanistan. Each new death will be especially grievous and distressing."

At that point General Lobov said: "I will make no secret of the complexity of the situation and will say that the toughest military measures are being taken: Protection on the march, the strictest observance of discipline, enhanced combat readiness. Every thing is being done to prevent even chance casualties in the process of withdrawal."

At the end of the interview Yuri Teplyakov inquired whether "May 15 will be a troublesome day for our army?" "General Lobov remarked: "For our army, all days are troublesome. But the troubles of that particular day are something we are waiting for."

Moscow reporting rebels activities since May 15

In the domestic service programme 'Panorama' on May 23, Radio Moscow reported that "on the eve of the beginning of the Soviet troops withdrawal, leaders of Peshawar Opposition intensified their

intimidation of the Afghan population with concentrated shelling of the regions where our troops are located and by seizing at the same time a number of regions in the country... they have shelled civilian towns and villages."

Situation facing Soviet troops on Jalalabad-Kabul Highway

On May 23, Moscow Television newscast reported that "the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Ningarhar province has been completed. Soviets Motor Rifle units and subunits are on the move on the roads of Afghanistan every day. There have been no losses of men or equipment. Safety of the traffic is provided at mobile guard posts and road blocks... our service men... take the firing of the rebels who are trying to cut the road and to fire rocket missiles and fire arms point blank at our convoys."

Moscow TV correspondent was shown asking Lieutenant Colonel Denisov about evidence of armed opposition at the time of troops movement from Jalalabad to Kabul. Denisov stated that "in that time period, the armed opposition... has been acting against our guard posts and our subunits blocking Jalalabad-Kabul road. In the course of this time, the enemy has used surface to surface missiles, about 200 of which have been fired at us..."

The television correspondent then inquired whether the Armed Opposition members had fired mortars as well? Which was responded in an obvious affirmative. Perhaps highlighting of Mujahideen activity by the Soviet media is calculated and purports to give the impression that whereas the Soviet-Kabul Authorities are observing the Geneva Accord, the Armed Opposition is not.

Psychological war against Kabul

In the May 23 "Panorama" programme Moscow Radio's Kabul correspondent reported recent propaganda activity of Mujahideen in the Afghan capital:

"Attempts to intimidate the population of the capital continue. Thus, the other day in Kabul, extremists scattered leaflets in which they demanded that shops be closed and people should not go into the streets on certain days because of the conduct of Military operation."

In a May 26 Pravda article two Pravda correspondents reviewed the situation in the Afghan capital:

"In Kabul... you feel, ...that propaganda by enemies of the regime is assuming increasingly bitter forms... A rumour is being spread in the city that Soviet troops perpetrated the May 9 rocket

attack on residential districts which was actually carried out by terrorists of the intransigent groups...it was only by sheer luck that Soviet specialists and their families living in the residential district were not among the victims. The windows in many of their apartments were blown out by the explosions..."

"The city is full of rumours too. Under conditions when government propaganda, in our view, is weak and is partly marked by indiscriminating optimism, western Radio Voices and ..., Peshawar sources create the impression that Jalalabad has been blocked by opposition detachments and will fall beneath. The psychological war against the Afghan authorities is a long standing reality, and the aims of the opposition have long been clear: to create in the population a feeling of uncertainty about the government's abilities..."

3 - PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimroy (also bordering Iran)

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul troops in Khash wubdivision, killing 30 and injuring many more. Six tanks destroyed and 20 militiamen captured. A regime force which came in to help troops under attack was ambushed and badly mauled.

Radio Tehran: In a series of operations, the Afghan Muslim Mujahideen have shot down three fighter planes of communist forces, besides wiping out several strongholds and destroying dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles of the Soviet-Afghan joint forces in Nimroz, Farah, Kabul, Bulk and Herat Provinces. (May 11, 1988).

Helmand

Mujahideen sources: 20 April: Soviet-Kabul troops continue attacks on Mujahideen positions in Sangeen and adjoining area. The township of Sangeen was taken by Mujahideen on March 24.

23 April: Soviet made planes inadvertently bombard their own positions in Sangeen district. There were casualties.

27 April: Mujahideen attack a military convoy near Nad-e-Ali, Northwest of provincial headquarters of Lashkargah. The missile attack destroyed a tank and an armoured vehicle. A trailer and some arms and ammunition seized.

29 April: Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops clash in Kajki Dam area where regime is trying to restore snapped electric supply lines

and install transformers.

9 May: Fighting continues in Sangeen-Kajki Dam areas. Eighteen tanks and armoured vehicles have been destroyed in the fighting since late March when Mujahideen ousted Soviet-Kabul forces from Sangeen town. Over 50 mujahideen were killed and 72 wounded in the fighting, including commander Pir Mohammad Khan.

Radio Tehran: Afghan Mujahideen during their recent fierce fighting with the Soviet-Kabul forces in southern province of Helmand, killed a large number of Soviet-Kabul troops and captured a large area. Twenty-one tanks and armoured vehicles of the Soviet-Kabul forces were destroyed in this fighting. (May 14, 1988).

BBC: Fierce fighting is continuing in northern part of Helmand province and guerillas say that the Soviet troops who arrived there a week ago from Kabul and Shindand have started building new security posts at Kajakai and Sangeen. Guerillas claim having killed 40 Soviet troops. They also claim that more than one hundred civilians were killed in the bombardment but these reports have not been confirmed by neutral sources. (Shabnama-Urdu: May 01, 1988).

VOA: Reports of fierce fighting between government forces and Afghan Mujahideen have been received from the Afghan province of Helmand. Here a VOA correspondent in Islamabad, Irfan Ghazi with details:—

Mujahideen suffered heavy losses as a result of a massive attack by Soviet and Afghan government forces in northern area of Afghanistan's southern province, Helmand. But, Mujahideen say they also inflicted heavy losses on the attackers. Reinforcements have been sent from Qandahar to Mujahideen of this area. 'Mohaz-e-Milli Islami' and 'Harkate Inqilabe Islami' sources say that the Soviet and Afghan army troops sent from Kabul and Shindand took up positions at seven places in Sangeen and Kajaki districts on April 22 and started carrying out attacks on Mujahideen positions. The sources gave the number of this Force as ten thousand. This force is accompanied by nearly twelve hundred tanks and other military vehicles. The offensive is aimed at capturing the Kajaki Dam on river Helmand. This hydel power plant used to supply electricity to several areas of Helmand and Qandahar provinces but now Mujahideen have destroyed its installations.

It is the fourth big offensive during last three months by the Communist forces to reach the Dam. The sources said that attackers also carried power house installations with them. They say that after taking up positions on routes leading to the Dam, the Communist air force intensely bombarded nearby villages and

mujahideen positions for three days. The planes were bombing from such a height that Mujahideen modern missiles could not hit them. Besides, the Soviet artillery also continued shelling the areas indiscriminately. The sources say that the bombing and shelling destroyed scores of houses and atleast 150 villagers including women and children were killed. Besides, twenty eight Mujahideen were also killed and atleast 18 wounded. The killed included two local Commanders, Wali Mohammad of 'Mohaze Milli Islami' and Pir Mohammad of 'Jamate Islami'. These reports could not be confirmed from independent sources. However, reports reaching Quetta through different sources say that on April 25, Mujahideen started a counter attack after mobilizing all their resources. In fierce encounters with Communist forces at different places, both the sides suffered heavy losses. Mujahideen claim that they destroyed ten tanks and killed atleast forty Soviet troops. The loss of life of Afghan government troops was even higher.

Some Mujahideen sources have reported that the Communist forces intend to establish two major military bases at Sharmo Shano Ghar and Garmab between Kajaki and Sarband Qila.

However, in the meantime, Mujahideen's 'Mutahidda Majlis' in Qandahar has sent a big reinforcement for its guerillas. But, it could not known whether the reinforcement has reached there or not.

The sources say that in the fighting which started in the last week of January, the areas of Sangeen and Kajakai have been completely destroyed, fields ruined, 'Karezes' destroyed and now there is a severe scarcity of food in the entire area.

Meanwhile, in a message prominent Commander of Helmand province, Maulvi Nasim Akhundzada has said that on April 19, the Mujahideen shot down a bomber plane with the help of a missile near Mosa Qila. (May 03, 1988).

VOA: Reports have reached Quetta from Helmand province that the offensive launched by the Soviet and Afghan Government forces against the Mujahideen in the northern districts of the province in the month of April has failed.

On the 2nd May the Soviet troops left for Shindand, whereas the Afghan Government forces proceeded towards the provincial capital Lashkargah. These sources say that the Mujahideen spread in the area in groups of two and defeated the Communists by persistent rocket attacks. These sources say that now there is no Communist force in Shanshin (ph). Sarman Qala, Zamin Dawar and Kirman adjacent to Qandahar. (May 29, 1988).

KNT: A cache of arms and ammunition of extremist groups in

Shinkai district of Helmand province was discovered by the security forces.

The seizure included two recoilless cannons, twenty rocket shells and other arms. (Apr. 12, 1988).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: 27 April: Mujahideen blow up a tank at Chowk Shaheed in Qandahar city.

30 April: Mujahideen attack a 'Ruling Party' office in Qandahar city and kill 8 'office bearers'. Another two office bearers were captured and shifted to the Liberated Area.

On May 3, the Mujahideen attacked a Soviet military camp a Takhta Pul. About 20 Soviets were killed or injured. The Mujahideen captured a mortar gun and 12 other weapons.

Earlier reports were confirmed that major part of the Arghastan district, Maruf, Shahwalikot and Taghar have fallen to the Mujahideen. The regime garrison in Arghastan was vacated by helicopters on May 1. Shahwalikot, another strongpoint of regime in Qandahar had fallen to the Mujahideen earlier.

On May 9, Urban Guerillas attacked a Ruling Party meeting being held in a hospital. Several party members and office-bearers were killed or wounded.

On May 9, Mujahideen captured three KHAD officers in Dand area. On the same day they clashed with a column of regime troops which rode into Arghastan. Two tanks were destroyed.

On May 12, Mujahideen attacked a security post in Mohallajaat. A tank, an armoured vehicle and two machineguns captured.

A local commander of Mujahideen in Qandahar, Mohammad Essa, has claimed responsibility for the killing of Mujahideen. Gen. Abdul Mutalib, deputy commander in chief of the 2nd corp of Afghan army in Qandahar on May 17, whose death was confirmed by the official Kabul Radio on May 18th. Commander Essa of Ittehad-e-Islami reported that 12 rounds of 122 mm rockets were fired on the headquarters of the 2nd corp on May 17, killing ten officers, including Maj. Gen. Abdul Mutalib, a senior member of Khalq faction.

On May 18, Mujahideen captured a security post at Zharhi near Spin Buldak. One hundred and fifty two regime troops surrendered to the Mujahideen. They also seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

On May 19, it was reported that the Mujahideen had wiped out two regime security posts in Kabul Gate and Deh Khawaja areas of Qandahar city. These reports said that the Mujahideen were operating

in Qandahar city with a very great deal of freedom.

VIRA: Another report says that the Soviet-Kabul troops launched an attack on the civilian population of Qandahar city, causing damages to various buildings including the graveyard of Ahmad Shah. (May 02, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim Mujahideen announced yesterday that they have captured Arghastan, a big town in Qandahar Province.

According to the reports, Arghastan town which is 40km from the Pakistan border, is the third town which was captured by the Afghan Muslim Mujahideen in Qandahar Province during last ten days. Earlier, the Afghan Mujahideen had occupied the Noroz and Shah Wali towns. (May 03, 1988).

The Afghan Muslim Mujahideen have killed eight high ranking PDPA officials in Qandahar province. A meeting was in progress at the time of the attack. According to reports, a major portion of the office of PDPA was also destroyed in the attack. (May 08, 1988).

Fierce fighting continued between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops in the Suburbs of Qandahar city. (May 17, 1988).

The report adds that in an operation the Afghan Mujahideen have killed a Kabul regime General in Qandahar.

According to another report, the Afghan Mujahideen launched attack on a military post of the Soviet-Kabul troops in the suburbs of Qandahar. In the attack, eight Kabul troops were killed and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was also captured by the Afghan Mujahideen. (News-Persian: May 25, 1988).

BBC: Reports reaching Quetta, say that the Afghan army has vacated the Showalikot cantonment twenty miles located in north of Qandahar a week ago. The reports say that this was vacated in haste after defection of militia soldiers to the guerillas. Hundreds of supporters of Afghan government were shifted through helicopters leaving behind food and arms and ammunition sufficient for one year. (May 01, 1988).

About six hundred armed militiamen belonging to the Kakazai tribe are reported to have defected to the guerillas in the Spin Buldak area, close to Afghanistan's southern border with Pakistan. Most of them only joined forces with the regime a few months ago following the murder of their tribal chief by Ismatullah Muslim, a former guerilla commander who defected to the regime a few years ago. The Kakazai were heavily armed by Ismatullah's arch rival, the Kulki faction leader, Mohammad Gulabzai. But now they have defected back to the guerillas bringing all their equipment with them including Klashnikovs, cannons,

rocket launchers, heavy machine-guns, eight trucks and one armoured car. (News Desk-English: May 05, 1988).

VOA: Meanwhile, more than one sources of Mujahideen in their separate reports from Qandahar say that Qandahar, the second largest city of Afghanistan, was set ablaze and turned into a battle-field. Mujahideen say that they have attacked all the military and civilian positions of Afghan Communist Party and the government of Afghanistan. There is a flood of letters from Qandahar inhabitants to their relations and friends in Quetta asking them to arrange residential accommodation in Quetta for them. The letter writers say that during the last nine years of war Qandahar city had not witness such a great number of rocket attacks. (Radio Report-Urdu: May 07, 1988).

Western diplomats say that India has closed its Consulate in the Southern Afghanistan town of Qandahar, where attacks of resistance guerillas are increasing.

These Pakistan-based diplomats say the Afghan guerillas have increased their rocket attacks on government positions and have recently captured three nearby district centres.

India has not yet commented on these reports. It may be recalled that India had closed its consulate in Jalalabad in April. The diplomats also say it appears that the Soviet officials will start withdrawal from Afghanistan with the return of troops from Kabul on Sunday via Salang highway leading to the Soviet border. Private truck owners have said they have been forbidden to use the highway for the next 22 days. (News-Urdu: May 11, 1988).

In Afghanistan 82 civilians mostly women and children, have been killed in a punitive air attack against a village in the southern province of Qandahar. From Islamabad VOA's John Shultz also reports of more defections to the Mujahideen.

The villagers of Loikariaz in the Spinbuldak district were killed in a prolonged air bombardment by Soviet built fighter bombers. News of their death has just reached the Pakistani border town of Quetta. The attack came May 15th just one day after more than 200 Afghan Government troops surrendered to the Mujahideen. Mujahideen sources say the villagers helped with the defection and they think the air attack is the punishment raid on the village. More defections are occurring almost daily. And at Kalaiker (ph) in the far Western province of Farah, more than 500 militiamen, belonging to the Bowadi (ph) tribes, came over to the Mujahideen with over 600 weapons and more than 30 vehicles. The defection occurred on May 16th.

On May 16th also Mujahideen attacked seven Communist positions in and around Qandahar city including a Soviet camp. About 30

Mujahideen units used rockets and heavy machine guns and say they killed 16 Soviet and 20 Afghan army troops. The Mujahideen say they now have control of a militia post, directly in front of the provincial Governor's residence. (Radio Report-English: May 22, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The body of the Deputy Commander of the Qandahar garrison, Brig Gen. Abdul Motlib was laid to rest today with full military honour in the Shahideen Memorial. The funeral ceremonies were attended, among others by the Interior Minister, Lt. Gen. Syed Mohammad Gulabzai, Chief of the Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Shah Nawaz Thani, Head of the Armed Forces Section of the PDP's Central Committee Maj. Gen. Abdul Haq Aloomi, a number of high ranking officers of the Armed Forces and the friends and relatives of the demised.

Late Brig. Gen. Abdul Motlib was seriously injured recently while discharging his duties on the outskirts of Qandahar province and was taken to the Armed Forces hospital, where he succumbed to injuries.

According to another report, under the directive of President Najibullah, who is also supreme Commander of the Armed Forces late Brig Gen., Motlib was awarded the posthumous rank of Maj. Gen., and the Redflag in recognition for his services. (News-Pushto: May 18, 1988).

The Afghan armed forces wiped out a five-member group of the Gulbadin band, which had infiltrated into Qandahar for terrorist activities during Eid days.

The Bakhtar Military correspondent reports that the criminals, who were clad in military uniform and were indulging in the terrorist activities, were wiped out in Daman Woleswali of Qandahar province. (News-Pushto: May 18, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the Armed Forces, in the course of their successful operations, wiped out three extremists who were trying to fire ground to ground missiles at Kochin (ph) village of Aman Woleswali during Eid days. But with the cooperation of the local people, these elements were pin-pointed and wiped out by the Armed Forces. (News-Pushto: May 23, 1988).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: On April 29, the Mujahideen repulsed a Soviet-Kabul attack on Darwazgai which they had earlier occupied after fierce fighting. Two regime tanks and a number of other vehicles were hit with rockets. Atleast 15 soldiers were killed. In another operation a military post at Tazyi was captured by the Mujahideen. About 100 militiamen switched over to the Mujahideen side.

On May 20, the Mujahideen attacked a regime military centre near

Shah Joi town on Kabul-Qandahar highway, 110 km north of Kalalat Ghilzai. A military convoy had just arrived at this centre. A tank and 3 bunkers destroyed.

BBC: Reports are constantly pouring in from Afghan resistance movement that Afghan government forces have quitted their garrisons along the Kabul-Qandahar Highway and these garrisons have been captured by the guerillas. Here is George Arney from Islamabad:

According to guerilla sources during the last ten days more than 6 posts were either vacated or captured by guerillas. There are reports that Ishare Safa and Janda garrisons in Zabul province in the east of Qandahar have been captured by guerillas. Some 200 Afghan government troops and militiamen were stationed on each of these posts. Guerilla sources say the only presence of Afghan government forces in the Zabul province was at its headquarters, Qalat where two thousand troops were stationed. (May 26, 1988).

VOA: The Afghan Mujahideen they have captured a portion of Kabul-Qandahar highway on May 3. Earlier, Mujahideen had destroyed a government Check Post on a hill in Rabatazai town of Zabul province. The Mujahideen sources claimed that traffic on 125 kilometres of road is blocked. The sources said that trucks carrying fruit and vegetables for Kabul could not reach their destination. (News-Urdu: May 12, 1988).

Another report says that the Mujahideen launched a big attack on Kalat, the provincial capital of Zabul on Friday. The attack is still continuing. (Radio Report-Urdu: May 29, 1988).

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: 26 April: Mujahideen attack security post near Khwaji Omari.

27 April: One hundred and Seventy Kabul troops of Ghazni city garrison (availing amnesty offer to those who join Mujahideen) defect to Mujahideen.

Mujahideen attack security posts of subdivisional quarters of Qarah Bagh. Eight regime soldiers killed.

Two military vehicles destroyed by mines planted by Mujahideen in Ghazni city.

29 April: Mujahideen attack a 'mobile' force (somewhere) on Kabul-Qandahar road destroying a tank and 2 other vehicles.

30 April: Mujahideen attack a 'security camp' in the grounds of Jan-e-Malika school in Ghazni city.

On May 2, the Mujahideen fired rockets on Soviet-Kabul troops in Jughto, Khwaha Mohammad, Qila-e-Kohna and Ghazni city. Some

army vehicles were destroyed. On May 5, an aircraft was shot down during a fierce encounter with Soviet-Kabul troops in the Gailan subdivision. The aircraft was supporting a ground attack on Mujahideen positions. Two tanks were also destroyed and a number of regime soldiers killed. On May 12, Mujahideen attacked security post near Band-e-Sultan, north of Ghazni.

Radio Tehran: In another operation, the Mujahideen shot down a Soviet fighter plane and inflicted heavy casualties on enemy troops in Ghazni province. (News-Pushto: May 19, 1988).

BBC: Reports have also been received that Shahjoi and Kara Bagh posts in Ghazni have been vacated. Guerillas have claimed big achievements in the north of Ghazni. Some 150 troops and militiamen were forced to retreat from Khajamori after four days of siege. It has also been said that Samar Khan garrison on the other side of the highway has also been vacated. Diplomatic sources say that the guerillas have also captured Saidabad town, 20 miles from there and the uncertain control of highway by government forces may cause difficulties for Soviet forces who are about to start withdrawal from Ghazni. (May 26, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The correspondent of the Bakhtar news agency reports from Ghazni City that extremists opened fire with heavy weapons on a residential area of the city martyring one citizen and wounding six others. The extremists also planted explosives in a 'ghee' tin in Agriculture and Rural Reforms Department in Ghazni province, but the security forces foiled their plan and averted the explosion. (News-Urdu: May 11, 1988).

Paktika

Mujahideen sources: 26 April: Mujahideen capture security post of Ghulam Khan Qila following defection of 80 regime soldiers to their side.

27 April: Russian troops ambush a mujahideen lashkar near Sharna Cantonment. Thirteen Mujahideen including commander Mohammad Amin were killed during fighting.

On May 7, Mujahideen attacked security posts in Waz-e-Khwa district. On May 22, the Mujahideen attacked and captured a battalion headquarter in Katwaz town, south of Sharna. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and an unspecified number of Afghan soldiers were captured by the Mujahideen.

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: 27 April: Mujahideen attack Ali Khel canton-

ment in Jaji Maidan, destroying a tank.

Also on the same day, they consolidate control on an important supply route between Liza and Suleman Sare.

5 May: Mujahideen frustrate concerted Soviet-Kabul counter-attacks for regaining control on the strategic route linking Liza with Suleman Sare. About 70 regime soldiers are believed to have been killed in fighting. A tank was also hit.

7 May: Garrison town of Share Nau (Chamkani district) falls to mujahideen. About 50 vehicles destroyed and 100 soldiers killed. Over 100 soldiers captured.

The important event in Paktiya during May was the occupation by the Mujahideen on May 16 of the Soviet-Kabul cantonment of Jaji, 20 kilometres from the Pakistan border. About 200 troops, along with about a dozen Russian advisers, were killed in fighting for Jaji which had been continuing for about two weeks. On May 16, some 1,200 Kabul troops (along with some Soviet advisers) set out from Jaji for Gardez in the form of a convoy. With them they had 8 tanks, eight other armoured vehicles and 45 army trucks. Helicopter gunships hovered above in the sky. Eye witnesses said the Mujahideen seized huge quantities of arms, ammunition, fuel and other stores from Jaji which the Soviet-Kabul troops leaving in obvious haste could not destroy.

A Mujahideen commander listed the following captured items at Jaji.

- 8 APCs
- 2 tanks
- 17 pieces of artillery
- 45 military 8-cylinder trucks
- 8,000 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition
- Ammunition for heavy guns: Several thousands boxes
- 4 Truck loads of rice
- 10 truck loads of flour
- 400 mattresses and blankets
- 300 iron beds
- 200 boxes of helmets
- 10 generators
- 500 Hand grenades
- 40 Tents
- 37 wireless sets
- 5 mortars
- 20 BMRL
- 30 DSHKs

30 LMGs

3 Guns 76 mm type

4 Guns 102 mm type

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim Mujahideen have occupied a strategic army garrison in the north of Khost in Paktia province May 8.

According to Afghan Mujahideen sources the Mujahideen after fierce fighting with Kabul troops have liberated the Shehr Nau Military garrison and inflicted heavy casualties on the Communist troops. More than 130 Kabul troops were killed and 110 including 16 officers have defected to the Afghan Mujahideen during the operation. According to the report, the communist troops bombarded strongholds of the Afghan Mujahideen in the suburb of the garrison and as a result dozens of Mujahideen were martyred and wounded. (May 09, 1988).

BBC: George Arney reports from Islamabad that the Afghan guerilla sources in Peshawar say that a big military convoy consisting of Afghan government and the Soviet troops which had left Gardez on April 18 is now heading towards Pakistani border in the north east. The convoy on reaching Leza 15 miles from Chamkani garrison two days ago was besieged by the Afghan guerillas on the way several times. According to pro-guerilla news agency Afghan Islamic Press, more than 100 Afghan troops were killed or captured while ten guerillas were killed and 15 injured. But it is feared guerillas's losses will be much more because their bases are reportedly being heavily bombarded.

Afghan Government troops have abandoned another garrison near the border with Pakistan, the fifth to be evacuated in the past two weeks.

The garrison at Chamkani was evacuated by an armoured relief column on Saturday amid heavy fighting with the cover of heavy bombardment of rebel positions.

The Afghan guerillas say it was manned by more than a 100 government troops and militiamen as well as Soviet Advisers. They say they killed or wounded 200 government troops and lost 30 of their own men.

The Government controlled radio in Kabul said heavy losses were conflicted on the rebels in fighting at Chamkani. But it said nothing about the garrison being evacuated. (News-Pushto/English: May 08, 1988).

Reports from Pakistan say, the Afghan military garrison of Alikhel area, in eastern province of Pakistan has fallen to the Mujahideen, after it was abandoned by the Afghan army.

BBC correspondent reports from Islamabad that about 600 troops, including personnel of the 36th Brigade of the Afghan army had been

deployed in this garrison who, the guerillas claim, were forced to retreat, leaving behind dozens of vehicles, stockpiles of food and weapons. (News-Pushto: May 17, 1988).

VOA: In Afghanistan, as the Soviets withdraw the Mujahideen advance. In the few days the Mujahideen have captured the Ali Khel garrison giving them effective control of the Jaji district near Pakistani border. VOA's John Shultz in Islamabad reports military experts are saying the fall of Jaji to the Mujahideen may have a dramatic effect on the balance of power in post-Soviet Afghanistan.

These experts, many of them in close contacts with Mujahideen sources say two important things have occurred with the taking of Ali Khel. First the ability to re-supply fighting units inside the country has been cut from six days to one with roads now open for trucks to drive through instead of relying on mules and horses in narrow mountain passes. Second they say there are no major barriers now in the way of the Mujahideen who could drive along road from Jaji, by-pass Gardez and continue at the main national highway to Kabul, which is viewed as the main strategic prize of the war. These experts admit there are major problems yet to be overcome, including the fact that most of the estimated one hundred and fifteen thousand Soviet troops are still in Afghanistan and the fact that Kabul has three major defence perimeters that are heavily mined. But these experts say several trends over the past several years and other trends over the past several weeks point to the probable military scenario in the not too distant future. They say that throughout the war, supplies and manoeuvres have been far more important than massive fire power a huge number of troops. In the coming battles to take major cities like Qandahar, Jalalabad and Kabul the prospect of huge synchronized coordinated attacks by thousands of well organized Mujahideen are highly unlikely, even with the fighting over the last few weeks with outposts falling in many areas and large number of defections and surrenders by Afghan Communist government troops. It was the ability to manoeuvre into surrounding positions that made the difference. The experts see a highly motivated and steadily growing force of Mujahideen moving in small units to Herat and attacking crumbling defence throughout the country. They also see growing disorganization, lack of coordination in communication and general confusion at all levels of Najibullah's government. They say the Mujahideen are enjoying more freedom of manoeuvre, sharp increases in re-supply from newly captured garrisons and now greatly increased logistical support with the taking of Jaji district and Ali Khel Garrison. (Newsline-English: May 24, 1988).

AFP: Alikhel, May 28: Piles of uniforms, stacks of weapons and

dozens of unopened boxes of landmines and ammunition litter this Afghan army garrison, abandoned in apparent panic two weeks ago.

The Mujahideen now in charge of the dust-blown outpost in eastern Paktiya province are still making an inventory of the booty left behind by hundreds of troops airlifted out by helicopter on the night of May 14.

Hizbe Islami Mujahideen, who took journalists to see Alikhel, about 30 kilometres from the Pakistan border, said they had not yet finished emptying three arms depots beneath the town.

"We have not been able to bring out all the supplies", a Mujahid said.

More than a dozen heavy guns were positioned, while heavy cannons protexted the barracks.

Three tanks and two armoured personnel carriers were seen parked inside the garrison in perfect condition.

The Mujahideen found dozens of light and medium guns stacked in the barracks with ammunition, while boxes containing more ammunition, hand grenades, antipersonnel mines and radio sets were scattered around the compound.

The Mujahideen also recovered hundreds of sleeping bags, a large quantity of Soviet and Afghan army uniforms, crockery and cutlery, gas cylinder, cooking ranges and a kitchen full of supplies.

The fall of Ali Khel, which came on the eve of the May 15 start of a nine-month Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan, boosted Mujahideen morale.

"It is a setback for the regime forces battling in Paktiya", a Mujahid said during the visit by journalists on Tuesday. (Pakistan Times: May 29, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported the vigilant Armed Forces have thwarted attempts of the extremist group which was trying to block the way of the return of the Afghan refugees to their homes in Chamkani area of Paktia province.

According to the report, the Armed Forces at the request of the local National Reconciliation Commission entered the area and asked the extremists group to lay down their arms and avoid bloodshed in the area. But the extremists group opened fire on the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces retaliated and as a result, heavy casualties were inflicted on the extremists group. Huge quantity of arms were seized from the extremists. (News-Pushto: May 7, 1988).

The Armed Forces, in an operation yesterday, wiped out an extremist group, which was subverting peaceful life of the people of the Kanda Khel and Ali Khel areas in Paktia province. During the

operation, heavy losses were inflicted on the extremists. Their arms and ammunition were seized and hide-outs were totally eliminated. (News-Pushto: May 11, 1988).

Another report says the extremist elements using heavy weapons fired at the residential area of Gardez city at the fourth night of Eidul Fitr. Two children were martyred and the Jamia Mosque of the city was also badly damaged as a result of firing. (News-Pushto: May 21, 1988).

KNT: Over 1500 families have returned home from abroad to Paktia province following the Geneva accord.

The families include nomads who lived in Pakistan. Special attention has been paid to the nomads welfare.

According to another report 13 families consisting of 65 persons who lived for some times in Pakistan returned home recently to Ningarhar province.

The repatriates were given assistance and resettled in their native localities. (BIA, *KNT*: May 4, 1988).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: 27-30 April: Mujahideen shell positions in Lalpura, Sarhadari, Farsh and Landai Khyber areas. Three tanks destroyed in Farsh and 4 vehicles in Landai Khyber. In Lalpura four militia positions destroyed.

(Torkham-Jalalabad highway remained closed for 3 days).

On May 2, Mujahideen wipe out a security post in Nazian subdivision. On May 13, Soviet-Kabul troops evacuated Mainkhel and Chelgazi security posts in Hissarik district and Agam, Pachir and Mamakhel posts in Khugiani district. Two helicopters evacuating troops from the posts under dynamic siege of the Mujahideen were shot down. A number of Mujahideen were also killed by anti-personnel mines planted by Soviet-Kabul outside some of their fortified positions. On May 23, Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops clashed at Tibbi Kot in Shinwar subdivision. Ten Soviet-Kabul troops and 8 Mujahideen were killed. On May 25, "Soviet troops" were seen guarding the airport and other sensitive areas in Jalalabad, negating earlier reports that they had pulled out of Jalalabad. The Soviet troops who arrived in Kabul from Jalalabad on May 15-16 had belonged to the Samarkhel garrison located between Jalalabad and Pakistan border.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim Mujahideen shot down a Soviet helicopter gunship in eastern Jalalabad on May 9.

Reports reaching from Islamabad say that the helicopter was supporting larger Soviet military convoy consisting of forty or sixty

lorries. (News-Pushto: May 10, 1988).

BBC: The Afghan guerillas say that the government troops have abandoned security posts in the eastern Afghanistan.

The BBC Islamabad based correspondent quotes Peshawar based guerillas sources as saying that the Kabul troops evacuated today the Khogyani district of Ningarhar Province. The guerillas said that dozens of civilians were shot dead by the government troops when they abandoned Chamkani garrison two days ago. (News-Pushto: May 10, 1988).

Reports from Pakistan say Soviet troops have begun withdrawing from their biggest garrison in eastern Afghanistan. Afghan guerilla leaders and Western diplomats are quoted as saying that upto 60 Russians trucks have left the base near Jalalabad heading towards the capital Kabul. It is thought that the Soviet brigade estimated at around four thousand men will be relocated around Kabul. This report from Islamabad George Arney:—

Sumarkhel is about ten miles south east of Jalalabad and what is Afghanistan's second biggest city. It is not known how many of the three to four thousand Soviet troops estimated to be stationed at the base were with the convoy. But Afghan military personnel have already started to arrive to replace them. Over the past week two Afghan Army brigades are reported to have been transferred to Sumarkhel from their usual headquarters near the border with Pakistan. As the Soviet convoy headed out of the base it was given cover by helicopters and jets which bombarded guerilla positions along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The guerillas claimed to have shot down one Soviet MI-24 helicopter gunship killing all three crew members. (News-English: May 12, 1988).

AFP: Afghan rebels Sunday staged three unsuccessful attacks on a convoy of the first Soviet troops withdrawing from Afghanistan after they left the Eastern Town of Jalalabad, Soviet television news reported.

The on-the-spot report from the rebel-held mountains which the convoy crossed in its eight-hour journey to Kabul from the Eastern Garrison Town, said that Muslim resistance guerillas tried to attack the Soviet convoy with rockets and machine-gun fire. It did not give further details.

Soviet television news reporter Mikhail Leshchinski said that three tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks arrived safely and undamaged in Kabul later in the day.

Referring to those who lost their lives in the eight and a half year Afghan conflict, the reporter said, unfortunately the list of those who died is not short. The Soviet Union has promised to reveal the number of soldiers killed in Afghanistan when the withdrawal takes

place.

Western experts estimate the number of Soviet soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan at twelve thousand to fifteen thousand. (Moscow-News: May 15, 1988).

Radio Beijing: Afghan resistance forces say they have a plan to attack the important eastern Afghan-Pakistan border area, Jalalabad.

Jalalabad was the first city in Afghanistan to be evacuated by the Soviet troops.

But an Afghan resistance source said three Soviet regiments were still stationed in the Jalalabad garrison. They would be able to meet any attack of the Afghan resistance forces.

All the roads leading to Jalalabad have been blocked by Afghan resistance guerillas. (News-English: May 23, 1988).

AIR: A Hindustan Times report quotes its Kabul based correspondent Daj Bargwar as saying that the Afghan rebels have intensified their attacks with the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from certain southern border areas inside Afghanistan. According to some reports received in Kabul the Mujahideen have made severe attacks on some areas vacated by the Afghan troops. The government troops had been maintaining its occupation on these areas with the help of the Soviet troops in the past.

Some reports reveal that the road linking two important cities of Jalalabad and Qandahar with Kabul has been disconnected. Occupying positions at the surrounding hills have almost made impossible the use of the Jalalabad airport, due to which domestic flights are suspended and the military flights are being operated in the difficult circumstances. Anyhow the officials have denied any big loss. Although the position is not safe in the surrounding area, yet the officials are sure that the enemy will not be able to capture Jalalabad. The position of the Kabul government at the Southern strip is also becoming a matter of concern as Pakistan had not only supplied a big quantity of weapons to the rebels before implementation of the Geneva accord but even now it is doing so.

In this connection the Afghan government has protested to the UN Secretary General. In the meantime the Soviet troops are covertly implementing their plan of withdrawal from Afghanistan so that the Afghan rebels may not take advantage of their movement. It has become crystal clear that the Soviets will not delay the plan of pulling out their troops from Afghanistan and will complete it even within the stipulated period despite Pakistan's violation of the Geneva agreement. (Jahan Numa-Urdu: May 20, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Thirteen families of our compatriots, comprising 65

members returned to their homes in Ningarhar province from Pakistan on May 9. Bakhtar correspondent reports that after providing necessary assistance they were shifted to their homes in Kama Woleswali and Darra-e-Noor Alaqadari. (News-Pushto: May 11, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that an eight-member group of the extremists which through disruptionist activities were subverting the peaceful life of the people of Pacheer and Agam Alaqadari of Ningarhar province, was recently wiped out by the Security Forces and their ammunition depot was destroyed.

Another group of the extremists was wiped out in Bari Kot Alaqadari of Shinwa Loi Woleswali in a successful operation of the Armed Forces recently. (May 25, 1988).

Radio Moscow: Security Forces and troops in Afghanistan have prevented an armed opposition from perpetrating acts of terrorists in the city of Jalalabad. The actions were obviously aimed against civilians. Their goal was to spread panic and give rise to public disorder. As we reported earlier Soviet troops have been withdrawn from Jalalabad in accordance with the Geneva accords. (News-English: May 23, 1988).

Moscow Television: (From The "VREMYA" Newscast). The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Ningarhar province has been completed.

(Begin M. Leshchinskiy recording, opening with shots of convoy of APCs, trucks, and tanks passing along mountain road, tank stationary off road). Soviet Motor Rifle units and subunits are on the move on the roads of Afghanistan every day. They are moving Northward, toward our state border. They are moving precisely according to schedule. There have been no losses of men or equipment. Safety of the traffic is provided at mobile guard posts and road blocks.

It is our servicemen who are performing this service, they still have some time to go before returning home. They take the firing of the rebels who are trying to cut the road and to fire rocket missiles and firearms point blank at our convoys.

(Lieutenant-Colonel V.N. Denisov, identified by caption). Today the last column has gone from Jalalabad toward Kabul.

Over the course of 12 days, our division is covering the movement of Soviet columns from Jalalabad toward Kabul. The division has successfully fulfilled its combat task.

(Leshchinskiy) tell me, what evidence has there been of the armed opposition at that time?

(Denisov) in that time, the armed opposition, despite the fact that there exist matters connected with the cease-fire, has however been

acting against our guard posts and our subunits blocking this road. In the course of this time, the enemy has used surface-to-surface missiles, about 200 of which have been fired at us.

(Leshchinskiy) and have they fired mortars as well?

(Denisov) there has also been mortar fire, with the armed opposition trying to inflict damage on the columns which were passing from Jalalabad to Kabul.

(Colonel N.M. Vasilyev, Identified by Caption) I must say that our soldiers, junior officers, displaying exceptional personal courage and a profound understanding of the task they are carrying out, have not left the field of combat; not one of them. I ought to cite names such as Nikolay Senchenkov, who was wounded, and Misha Myagkov, and a number of other lads, such as Lance Corporal Kiselenko and private Shchelek. Even though they had been wounded, they said to their commanders: Leave us; we must stay here in the battlefield to the end. These lads are simply priceless.

(Leshchinskiy) well, thank you, I know that the division's combat tasks do not end with this; you will have to be among the last to leave Afghanistan. I wish you and your men success. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430, GMT: May 23, 1988).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: 27 April: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul positions in Changha sarai (Asadabad) and Asmar.

30 April: Mujahideen attack a military convoy near Narang while it was moving towards Asadabad.

(Without mentioning the timeframe or names of places, Mujahideen claimed they had captured 29 security posts in Kunar province.)

Radio Tehran: Thirty fighter planes of the Kabul regime severely bombarded two targets in Barikot area along the Pak-Afghan border yesterday. As a result of bombardment at least 18 people were killed. (News-Pushto: May 10, 1988).

VOA: The Afghan resistance sources say the Soviet-led Government forces have abandoned another base in the eastern part of the country and a large military convoy on a resupply mission near the Pakistani border is reported surrounded by the Mujahideen units.

Afghan resistance sources in Peshawar say the Afghan army brigade base with six Soviet advisers at Asmar abandoned its position Thursday and moved to Chagha Sarai, the provincial capital. (News-English: May 1, 1988).

KNT: Four persons were killed 12 others severely injured when a rocket fired by extremists hit a bus going to Asadabad city, Kunar

province.

The wounded were carried by the Security forces to the hospital of Asadabad and they are progressing. (Radio Kabul: May 9, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the extremist elements using heavy arms have fired at the residential areas of Sarkani Wolesswali of Kunar province during Eid days. As a result of this brutal act two children were martyred and five others seriously injured, besides causing considerable material damages to our compatriots. (News-Pushto: May 20, 1988).

According to another report another six member group, which had been indulging in loot and murder in the outskirts of Kunar province, was also wiped out by the Armed Forces.

According to another report a six-member group of the extremists was captured by the Security Forces in Asadabad city of Kunar province. Different kinds of weapons including one rocket launcher and one heavy machine were seized from them.

Similarly three armed terrorists were killed in Pashak Alaqadari of Kunar province yesterday. (News-Pushto: May 25, 1988).

According to another report extremist elements have fired ground to ground missiles at residential areas in Asmar and Sarkani Wolesswalis and Narang, Alaqadari of Kunar province yesterday as a result of which one person was martyred and three others were seriously injured. Several houses were also damaged in the missile attacks. (May 26, 1988).

Radio Moscow: In Afghanistan more opposition groups have laid down their arms in Balkh and Kunar provinces. But at the same time other extremists are trying to foil the national reconciliation process. (May 4, 1988).

More than five hundred and fifty families of Afghan refugees returned last week to Ningarhar and Kunar Provinces from Pakistan and Iran.

The Local Government bodies gave them material aid and assistance in securing housing. In Jozjan Province an Opposition grouping numbering thirty men stopped fighting and announced for the policy of national reconciliation. (News-English: May 10, 1988).

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Mujahideen sources: On May 3, Mujahideen liberated an area of Fargha which lies between Garam and Hisariko. Five members of Soviet-Kabul contingent guarding the area were killed. Several others were captured. The rest of them escaped towards Garam subdivisional

headquarters. On May 4, Mujahideen attacked an army camp at Baharak.

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: After a week long struggle the Mujahideen captured Dashti Qala district of Takhar province near the Soviet border on May 8. Mujahideen said 25 security posts had fallen to them along with a huge quantity of arms and ammunition. They had also captured about 150 officers and men of the Soviet-Kabul forces. Yangi Qala and Shahri Buzerg districts were under heavy pressure of the Mujahideen.

VIRA: The Mujahideen attacked a post of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Takhar province as a result of which three Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and a number of others injured. (News-Persian: May 14, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Muslim Mujahideen during their operations in Takhar province attacked a security post of the Soviet-Afghan forces and killed a number of enemy troops. (News-Urdu: May 7, 1988).

Kunduz

Radio Tehran: In their successful operations in Kunduz, Baghlan and Kunar Provinces, Afghan Mujahideen liberated some parts of these provinces besides capturing 29 posts in Kunar Province and 15 important posts in Kunduz province. (May 16, 1988).

KNT: The employees of Tsarandoy units and detachments of Kunduz province have seized recently 9 rocket launchers, three recoil-less cannons, 3 mortars and 212 assorted weapons and some ammunition from the hideouts of extremist bands. (May 7, 1988).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: 24 April: A tank destroyed in a clash between Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul forces on the Baghlan-Kunduz highway.

A large part of Andrab district has come to Mujahideen control with the fall of two security posts between Bannu and Khinjan. Two officers and 87 men were taken at these posts. Mujahideen also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

27 April: Mujahideen fire missiles at Qila Gai, Soviet supply centre, hitting four tanks, 18 vehicles and one B.M: 41 long-range gun.

On May 2, Mujahideen attacked a security post in the Industrial area of Baghlan city, killing two Russians. On May 6, another body of militia troops defected to Mujahideen in Hasantal area. The number of defectees was not mentioned. Mujahideen successfully carried out raids on Baghlan city on May 10, 15, 18, 22 and 28. KHAD offices and government establishments were the especial targets of these

attacks. Several security posts strung round the city were overrun yielding arms, ammunition and other supplies to the Mujahideen.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen, during an operation against Soviet-Kabul forces in Baghlan province captured two bases of the Communist troops and besides killing a large number of Communist troops, they made captive twenty seven others. (May 4, 1988).

The Afghan Muslim freedom fighters, while continuing their struggle against the Soviet Afghan troops attacked a supply centre of the enemy, in north of Baghlan province with missiles. As a result of this attack four tanks and different type of eighteen military vehicles of the communist troops were destroyed. (May 7, 1988).

VOA: Local Afghan sources in Kabul have said that fierce fighting has also taken place in northern provinces of Kunduz, Takhar and Baghlan during the third week of April, as a large number of Afghan soldiers were brought to the Kabul hospitals during the same period. A report from Baghlan says that Mujahideen have executed the Governor of Baghlan, who was captured by them a few weeks ago. They have also seized another four military posts near Baghlan city. (Radio-Report-Urdu: May 3, 1988).

VOG: Afghan rebels say they have taken control of a strategically important garrison in the Panjsher Valley in North Eastern Afghanistan and a town of Baghlan province further to the West after the defection to the rebels of five hundred government troops. (News-English: May 23, 1988).

Samangan

VOA: Afghan resistance reports also said twenty five Afghan army troops were killed when flood water smashed a military base at Ribatak in Samangan province. (News-English: May 11, 1988).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: On May 7, the mujahideen attacked regime posts in the villages of Langar Khana and Baba Qashqar. Five soldiers and one non-commissioned officer were killed and ten Kalashnikovs were seized. Three soldiers also surrendered. One mujahid was killed and two injured.

On May 12, a Russian-Kabul convoy moving from Mazar to Shiberghan was attacked by mujahideen on the Shiberghan-Balkh Highway in the district of Char Bulak.

In the attack that lasted one and half hours, the mujahideen killed ten soldiers and destroyed one tank, one military truck and radio communication jeep. Three Mujahideen were killed and six

wounded.

KNT: A terrorist group that disturbed the peaceful life of the people in Shortpa district of Balkh province was arrested by the security forces.

The security forces acted on the request of the residents of Jash Guzar of Shortpa district. Eight extremists were arrested and their arms captured. (May 12, 1988).

Sar-e-Pul

Mujahideen sources: On May 2, regime militia posts in Sare-Pul district were attacked by the Mujahideen. Seven militiamen were killed and five surrendered.

Radio Kabul: A fifty members armed group announced stoppage of its armed activities in Sozma Qala Alaquadari of Sarepul province yesterday and joined the ranks of the peace forces of Afghanistan. Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that this group which was equipped with different kinds of weapons including fifty Kalashnikovs has pledged to maintain peace and security in the Alaquadari. (News-Pushto: May 22, 1988).

Jozjan

Radio Kabul: A six member terrorist group was also wiped out in the outskirts of Jozjan province last week and their arms seized by the Armed Forces. (May 13, 1988).

KNT: An opposition group consisting of 30 armed men and 91 others led by Sayed Azizullah who carried on anti-state activities in Jozjan province laid down their arms yesterday and declared support to the policy of national reconciliation.

They were welcomed in a gathering by the governor, the president of national reconciliation commission and the secretary of the provincial party committee of Jozjan.

Speaking at the gathering, Sayed Azizullah, leader of the group, pledged to ensure peace and security. (May 5, 1988).

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: 21 April: Mujahideen shoot down a MIG which was bombarding their "Imam Hussain Centre" (somewhere in Faryab). Only a few days earlier they had destroyed an Antonov-26 aircraft in the same area.

On May 5, Mujahideen fired more than a dozen rockets into the Soviet cantonment area in the capital city Maimana. In the ensuing clash ten Soviet-Kabul and two Mujahideen were killed. On May 5, 6



and 7, a military camp at Qashla Guzar, near Maimna, was attacked repeatedly.

Radio Tehran: Afghan Muslim revolutionaries shot down at Soviet MIG, which was attempting to bomb Mujahideen positions in Faryab Province on April 21.

The Afghan Mujahideen also attacked a security post of communist forces near Maimana governorate on April 22, capturing NCO's and soldiers. A considerable amount of weapons were also seized intact by the Muslim revolutionaries. (May 2, 1988).

VOA: According to an earlier report, Mujahideen had shot down a military transport plane in northern Faryab province on the same day. Now, there are reports that after two days, seven planes of the Communist air force bombarded Mujahideen positions near the Provincial capital, Maimana to avenge the loss, but Mujahideen again shot down one of these MIG jets. (Radio Report-Urdu: May 3, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The extremist elements by using heavy arms fired at the residential areas of the Maimana city of the Faryab province today and yesterday, and in this criminal act, they martyred a number of our innocent compatriots.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that as a result of this inhuman act of the extremists our six compatriots were martyred, eighteen others injured including women and children. Like wise in this treacherous action three vehicles were burnt down and a number of houses in the city were damaged. (News-Pushto: May 25, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the Armed Forces in the course of their successful operations wiped out a twenty-five member group of the extremist elements, which by firing ground to ground missiles had disturbed peaceful life of the people of Maimana city of Faryab province. According to the report in the course of the operations which took place at the request of the local people, yesterday different kinds of arms including four rocket launchers and ten shells were seized, and several hideouts of the extremists were destroyed. (May 26, 1988).

Radio Moscow: Anti-government groups in Afghanistan have committed another offense.

According to a Bakhtar report the opposition groups fired rockets at the Maimana city in Faryab province and the Jaji Maidan area in Paktia province as a result of which two civilians were killed and eleven others wounded and a Mosque was destroyed.

The American weapons are being shipped to Afghan opposition groups via Pakistan violating the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan.

(News-Urdu: May 26, 1988).

Badghis

VIRA: In a combat between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops in Badghis province last week, 3 Kabul troops were killed and another injured. (May 4, 1988).

Radio Kabul: According to a report from Badghis province twelve members of a terrorist group were wiped out in Baz Mohammad area by the Armed Forces recently at the request of the people of the area. (May 22, 1988).

Provinces Bordering Iran

Herat (also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: Even as Soviet-Kabul forces are strengthening security posts around Herat city and on the highways connecting this strategically important city with the Soviet Union and Iran and Mazar Sharif, Kabul and Qandahar, the Mujahideen too are tightening their stronghold on the city. A large number of Soviet soldiers and advisers are in Herat. Both sides are aware of the strength of their adversaries and are waiting to deliver decisive blows if and when an opportunity lends itself to them. One Mujahideen source hoped that Herat will be the first of the major Afghan cities — like Kabul, Qandahar, Jalalabad and Mazar Sharif — to fall to the Mujahideen when the Soviets withdraw.

A Mujahideen source said that retired General Fazal Ahmed who held a high position with the Kabul regime as "Senator" has come over to the Mujahideen side in Herat. General Fazil has served the Afghan Defence Ministry as the head of the Logistic Cell. The general is currently in Iran. In the meantime, the Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy carrying supplies to Herat city on May 17. Two tanks and a truck were destroyed, with rockets. Another two trucks were seized by the Mujahideen.

VIRA: Reports reaching from Herat say that in a series of operations, the Afghan Mujahideen killed thirty communist troops and captured fourteen others. According to the reports, in the continuing operations Afghan Mujahideen have also knocked out a Soviet tank alongwith its crew members in Herat Province last week. (News-Pushto: May 10, 1988).

A large quantity of arms and military equipment of the Soviet-Kabul troops was set ablaze by the Afghan Mujahideen in Herat.

The reports says that in the operation, a huge arms and ammuni-

tion depot of the Soviet troops near Herat was blown up by the Mujahideen. The rockets and other ammunition which blasted in the operation, scattered over an area of seven to eight kilometres from Herat city. (News-Persian: May 23, 1988).

BBC: Reports from Afghanistan say a big ammunition depot in the western city of Herat has been blown up causing many casualties and extensive damage.

Reports quoting rebel sources say the sabotage attack was carried out on Sunday with the cooperation of troops of the Afghan army who planted explosives among thousands of artillery shells.

The reports say the exploding shells rained down on Herat and its vicinity for more than three hours.

There has been no independent confirmation of the guerilla reports. (May 25, 1988).

VOA: The Afghan Mujahideen have liberated from the Communist control the western suburbs of the third big Afghan city of Herat. Meanwhile, the Soviet and Afghan Government troops have started retreating from the northern districts of the southern province of Helmand and the Mujahideen have launched an attack on Kalat, the capital of Zabul province. Though these reports of the Mujahideen sources could not be confirmed, some prominent Mujahid commanders have, in their messages, narrated their activities in detail. Dr. Amin of the Jamiat-i-Islami reported on telephone from the Iranian border town of Taiyyabah that on 24 May, the units of Major Azizullah launched an attack on the western side of the Herat city and ambushed a security line of the Communist militia units. Since the militia soldiers, posted on several posts of the security line, had already established contacts with the Mujahideen, they quietly handed over the posts. The remaining posts came under the control of the Mujahideen after three days of fighting. Dr. Amin says that as a result of this fighting, Shahzada Khan, the western suburb of Herat was also liberated. The inhabitants of the suburb showered flowers on the Mujahideen and embraced them. These sources say that the Mujahideen are now getting stronger around Herat.

On 23rd May, a convoy of the returning Soviet troops, was attacked by Mujahideen in the pass of Kotal-i-Herat nearly five miles south east of Herat. They destroyed one truck and two tanks. On the same day fifty men of the border militia headed by their commander Haji Sher Jan Alizai joined the Mujahideen in the Ghorian district west of Herat. (May 29, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A terrorist group of the extremists which wanted to subvert peaceful life of our people, in Andrashan Wolesswali of Herat

province, was wiped out by the Security Forces of the country today. Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that in the request and with cooperation of local people, a number of terrorists along with their two ring leaders Mohammad Anwar and Abdul Wakil were killed and different kinds of arms were seized from them. (News-Pushto: May 14, 1988).

KNT: The extremists elements recently fired surface-to-surface rockets and mortars on the textile mill of Herat province and inflicted material losses valued at over six million Afghanis.

A spokesman of the factory said that the patriotic engineers and workers of this factory have pledged to repair their mill.

According to another report, the security forces unearthed with the cooperation of the residents of Shiwaki village surface to surface rockets in the village. The rocket carriers were arrested and are under investigation.

The extremists elements also planned to fire rockets on the residential areas of Bagram district, Kabul province. (May 4, 1988).

Military correspondent of the Bakhtar news agency has reported that a truck loaded with arms and ammunition while entering the country from outside, was captured by the vigilant Border Force in Shindand area of Herat province recently. Different kinds of heavy and light arms including five thousand bullets were seized. (News-Pushto: May 8, 1988).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: Three regime soldiers were killed in a clash with the Mujahideen in village Majid Khan, near Farah city, on April 22. A tank was also hit. Other reports said that the Mujahideen had captured a "very important" security post along the Iranian border in Qala District. Here 300 militiamen surrendered to the Mujahideen with 2 tanks, 15 motor-cycles and a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Radio Tehran: According to the Mujahideen sources, the freedom fighters also killed scores of communist troops during these operations. According to the report, in retaliation to the Mujahideen attacks, the communist troops launched rocket attacks on the surrounding area of Janoom (ph) in Farah Province as a result of which two civilians were martyred and a few houses damaged. (May 11, 1988).

VOA: Another source reports from the Iranian city Beejam that in the district Bolaikhah of Farah Province thirty men of the border militia defected from the Kohi-Pal militia headquarters and joined the Hizb-i-Islami of Gulbadin Hikmatyar. (May 29, 1988).

Central Provinces

Ghor

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen attacked a security post in the vicinity of the provincial headquarter of Chagh Charan on April 25. Five troops and assorted arms and ammunition were captured.

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: 27 April: Mujahideen fire missiles at military garrison in Kabul. A barrack and 4 tanks hit.

A SU-25 shot down while landing at Bagram airbase.

Salang Highway remains closed between Kabul and Charikar.

Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul troops at Tangi Abraisham on Kabul-Jalalabad road, destroying two trucks.

On May 9, Mujahideen attacked 'Russian' posts in Mahipar pass. Three tanks and two other vehicles hit. On May 12, Mujahideen shell "15th force" (somewhere in Kabul). An officer and three men were killed and two heavy guns destroyed. On May 14, a bomb exploded in a truck parked near Pule Mahmood Khan. Sixteen persons were killed and over 20 injured. On May 15, Mujahideen fire on security posts at Rustam Qala and Shani Qala. Eight militiamen were killed at Rustam Qala and three at Shani Qala. On May 19, Soviet aircraft bombed Guldara and Kachin areas. On May 20, a security post was attacked at Chandar Baii in Paghman. Also on May 20, Mujahideen attacked a military convoy in Shakardara area north of Kabul on Salang highway. A nearby security post was also attacked. A tank destroyed. On May 22 and 23, Mujahideen attacked Soviet army camps at Qila Wazir and Deh Dana. On May 24, they fired rockets on Darul Aman area of Kabul.

VIRA: A helicopter gunship of the Kabul regime was shot down by the Mujahideen near Kabul city. (News-Pushto: May 2, 1988).

The Mujahideen attacked first column of the Soviet troops in Mashwanri area eight kilometre north west of Kabul. In the attack six military vehicles were set ablaze. After the clash between the Mujahideen and the enemy troops, the Soviet convoy moved towards Jabal Seraj, which links Kabul with Hairatan port.

According to another report, another convoy of the Soviet troops was also attacked by the Mujahideen along Salang Highway. (News-Pushto: May 26, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim Mujahideen have fired rockets on military and economic installations in Kabul city. According to

reports, three to four missiles hit residences of the Soviet advisors but there has been no report about casualties. (News-Pushto: May 3, 1988).

BBC: The Soviet News Agency — TASS says a Soviet journalist has been killed in Afghanistan.

It said the journalist, a photographer from the IZVESTIA newspaper, had been travelling with Soviet convoy, when it was ambushed north of Kabul. Another photographer with him was seriously wounded. Both had been covering the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. (news-English: May 5, 1988).

Prior to the start of the Soviet troops withdrawal on next Sunday, foreign journalists have been allowed to visit Kabul. One of the journalist William Reeves of the BBC Eastern Service reports:

Sounds of redeployment of the Soviet troops in their centres are clearly heard from the window of Kabul Hotel, situated in the heart of the city. Although the Soviet troops are responsible for guarding sensitive buildings and squares, during night, very few of them are seen in the city during day. In the day the security is maintained by Kabul regime troops. Soviet troops are seen moving along the roads after Ten O' clock in the night. Troops patrol of Kabul city has been increased following missile blasts. Although the missile attacks do not cause serious loss to Kabul regime, yet they indicate presence of the Mujahideen in the capital. The Bulgarian Consul and his two family members were slightly injured in such a missile attack, which took place very close to Kabul Hotel. Similarly, bomb explosions are also taking place in the city. In one of such recent explosions, six people lost their lives. The journalists, staying in this Hotel rushed to watch the place of incident. Almost all dwellers of Kabul are happy with the withdrawal of Soviet forces. Similarly, the Soviet troops are also happy with their return to their country. The people who are not happy with the return of the Soviet troops are members of the ruling Communist Party and a very small group of the Afghan troops. The people are being heard asking as to what will happen after the withdrawal of Soviet forces and this is among those several questions, which no body can answer.

The Americans are of the view that the Mujahideen would get control and topple Kabul regime while another view is that Najibullah will succeed in controlling at least Kabul and the northern areas, which are close to the Soviet border. (The World Today-Pushto: May 8, 1988).

A car bomb has exploded in the Afghan capital Kabul. The bomb went off in a taxi and unconfirmed reports say that the driver and a passer-by were killed. There has been no indication of the motive for

the bomb attack, which came less than a week before the Soviet forces are due to start their withdrawal from Afghanistan. (News-English: May 9, 1988).

VOA: The Western diplomats in Kabul say that the most heavy rocket shelling of this year took place during last week. They say that the thirteenth attack of the week was carried out on May 1, during which the residential area of Soviet staff, Macrorayan was made target. But one rocket also fell on the houses of foreign diplomats and two East European diplomats were injured. Experts are of the view that Mujahideen have fired the rockets from within the defence circle which the communist troops have established around Kabul. This incident confirms the increasing pressure of Mujahideen on Kabul. According to the Western diplomats, the activities of Mujahideen have particularly been accelerated in the west and southwest of the capital. In the north, Mujahideen looted a Soviet military supply convoy on May 1, and fierce fighting took place near Khairkhana and in Dashtbachi south west of Kabul on April 20. (May 3, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported another criminal act of the extremists, who wanted to fire ground to ground missiles at a populated area of Kabul city, was foiled today.

In accordance with the commitment for maintaining peace and security in their areas, the noble people of Bagram and Charsiab informed the country's security forces about the presence of ground to ground missiles in the western area of Khak-e-Jabbar. The security forces with their timely action seized the missiles which were ready for firing against our people. (News-Pushto: May 9, 1988).

Bakhtar news agency reports that the terrorist elements fired seven missiles on residential areas in Kabul city yesterday. Twenty three people, including women and children were killed. Meanwhile, the security forces discovered and captured an ammunition store of the terrorists in Shaheedan village of Sarobi Ulaswali. (News-Urdu: May 10, 1988).

One thousand six hundred and forty five compatriots who were living in Iran, Pakistan, Federal Republic of Germany and Saudi Arabia returned home during last month.

A spokesman of the State Committee for Repatriates said that 700 repatriates who were living in Iran had returned home during recent three days. Some of them were taken to Kabul by Bakhtar Afghan Airlines and the rest will stay for a short time in Herat peace guest house before leaving for their regions." (KT: May 10, 1988).

Hundreds of children and pioneers of Kabul city held meetings

and staged marches yesterday strongly denouncing latest rocket attacks by extremists on the city resulting in the martyrdom of our compatriots. Children gathered in front of the Embassies of the United States and Islamic Republic of Pakistan, chanting slogans and strongly condemned the rocket firing on Kabul in which twenty three people including children were martyred and described it as the greatest inhuman crime. According to Bakhtar news agency, the children while expressing hatred against those fanning the war flames raised slogans that they wanted peace. (May 13, 1988).

A criminal plan of the extremist band of Gulbadin Hikmatyar, to hit the Kabul city with ground-to-ground missiles, was un-earthed and foiled by the Afghan security forces.

The Bakhtar Military correspondent reports that the criminal had installed the missiles in Charasiab Wolesswali to hit the Kabul city but our security forces un-earthed and foiled the plan. (News-Pushto: May 18, 1988).

The Bakhtar Military correspondent reports that a terrorist armed group, which indulged in subversive activities in the outskirts of Karabagh Wolesswali of Kabul province, was wiped out during a clash with the country's security forces. Different kinds of arms were seized from the criminals. (May 14, 1988).

Radio Moscow: Another aeroplane carrying 125 Afghan refugees has arrived from Iran to Afghan capital Kabul.

Interviewed by newsmen the returnees were unanimous in admitting that the Iranian authorities have been persecuting Afghans and taking pains to prevent them from returning home.

Many refugees had spent several months to ten years in prison, where they had been sent on voicing their wish to return to their native country. One interviewee said Iranian prisons were packed with Afghans.

Despite all these difficulties since the Geneva Accord on Afghanistan was signed in the middle of last month the influx of returnees from Iran and Pakistan has been increasing day by day.

The head of the Refugee Combination Commission in the city of Herat, Nizam-ud-Din Rafadat, who himself returned home a year ago says everybody knows the number of people coming back to Afghanistan has doubled. The Government offers the returnees material assistance. (News-English: May 2, 1988).

Pravda: In Kabul these days you feel that propaganda by enemies of the regime is assuming increasingly bitter forms and, at times, an appearance of blatant Lies. A rumour is being spread in the city, in particular, that Soviet troops supposedly perpetrated the 9 May rocket

attack on residential districts which was actually carried out by terrorists of the "Intransigent" groups. The monstrous nature of this Lie designed for illiterate people far removed from politics consists not only in the fact that it was only by sheer luck that Soviet specialists and their families living in the residential district were not among the victims—the windows in many of their apartments were blown out by the explosions. The cynicism of the inventors of cock-and-bull stories is aroused by their desire to cast aspersions on the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, which are continuing the withdrawal of combat units in full accordance with the Geneva Accords.

The fact of yesterday's new rocket attack on Kabul residential districts, which is a glaring crime, attests to how things actually stand and who is trying to violate the Geneva accords. The crime resulted in 2 dead — an old man and a woman — and 11 injured.

The city is full of other rumours too. Under conditions when Government propaganda, in our view, is weak and is partly marked by indiscriminating optimism, the Afghans frequently glean information from Western Radio voices. And these base themselves on Pakistani and Peshawar sources and create the impression that Jalalabad has been blocked by opposition detachments and will fall beneath their blows any day now.

The psychological war against the Afghan authorities is a long-standing reality, and the aims of the opposition have long been clear: to create in the population a feeling of uncertainty about the Government's abilities. (Moscow Pravda in Russian: May 26, 1988. "AFGHAN REPORTAGE" by special correspondents A. GOROKHOV and V. Okulov: "TEN DAYS ON").

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: 22 April: Mujahideen attack security post near Bagram airbase.

24 April: Mujahideen attack a convoy near Salang Tunnel. Three trucks seized.

27 April: Mujahideen attack security post in Charikar, killing 15 troops and destroying a tank. One Mujahid also killed and some injured.

On May 1, Mujahideen captured 2 security posts in Gujarkhel area.

On May 5, Mujahideen attacked Bagram airbase from the side of Parwan. On May 11, Mujahideen wipe out a security post in Jabal-us-Siraj. Eight Kabuli troops arrested. Mujahideen destroyed 5 posts in Ghulam Ali district. Seventy Kalashnikov rifles, one mortar, two RPGs and one Dasheka were taken by Mujahideen from these posts.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim Mujahideen have destroyed a

military aircraft of the Kabul regime in an attack on Bagram military base in Kabul Province. They also killed scores of communist troops and occupied a military base near Charikar town in Parwan Province. In these operations, the Mujahideen also occupied eight posts of the Soviet-Afghan joint forces. (News-Pushto: May 4, 1988).

Here is VOA correspondent in Islamabad, Irfan Ghazi with a report about the war situation in Afghanistan:—

Only five days are now left for the start of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. But the Mujahideen leaders announced a few days back that they will continue to fight till a single soviet soldier is present, in their country. Some recent incidents also indicate that the return journey of the Soviet occupation forces will not be safe and peaceful. For safety of Soviet troops, the Communist Government in Kabul has announced that after 14 May, private trucks will not be allowed to the north of Kabul. Even otherwise this highway has never been secure from the Mujahideen attacks during the last eight years. Western diplomats in Islamabad said on Tuesday that the Mujahideen recently attacked two Soviet military convoys passing through this road. According to these sources, one of the attacks was launched near the Bagram air base on April 30, in which two armoured vehicles were destroyed. The report of the second attack was given by the Soviet media itself and the diplomats quoting it say that a military convoy was attacked south of Salang tunnel. Some Soviet journalists were also travelling with it. One cameraman was killed and his colleague was wounded.

According to these sources the nature of the current movement of Soviet troops is mostly that they are shifting to big centres, handing over small garrisons to the local Afghan Communist forces. But the Mujahideen are in their search everywhere. (May 11, 1988).

At certain places, the Soviet officials have tried to reach interim truce with local Mujahideen Commanders. The Western diplomats say the Soviet Commander of Bagram has promised that the Soviet planes will not bomb civilian localities in the area if the Mujahideen refrain from attacking the base. (May 11, 1988).

Kapisa

Mujahideen sources: On May 15, the mujahideen attacked the garrison of Tanbana, 45 km inside Panjsher Valley. After one hours fighting the mujahideen captured the garrison.

The mujahideen killed 60 soldiers and captured 42 others, while the rest fled. The mujahideen seized 17 heavy weapons, 400 light arms

and two tanks in working order. Three Mujahideens were killed and 12 injured.

Meanwhile, various enemy posts in the valley were attacked. The mujahideen killed 20 troops and captured 20 weapons.

Soviet-Kabul forces are reportedly building a number of new security posts along the salang highway after recent successes of the Mujahideen in Kapisa.

Radio Tehran: In a series of operations, the Afghan Mujahideen forced the communist troops to retreat from Punjsher valley. They also seized a large quantity of weapons and equipment from the communist troops during the operations. (May 28, 1988).

BBC: In Afghanistan, guerillas say they have captured a strategic military garrison in Punjsher valley. They say that this is their first step to completely push Afghan-Soviet forces out of the valley. George Arney reports from Islamabad:—

Punjsher valley has a special significance due to the strategic Salang Highway that passes through it. It is the main supply route between Kabul and the Soviet Union. That is why Soviet troops returning from Afghanistan are using this route. There has been no big fighting in the valley during the last few years.

The valley has come to be known because of the role of leading guerilla commander. Ahmad Shah Masood whose men gained control over a big portion of north-eastern Afghanistan. The population in Punjsher has become thin and there are nearly ten thousand Soviet Afghan troops in the lower and central areas of the valley. So far not even a single Soviet soldier has been withdrawn from the Valley probably to keep Salang Highway safe. But guerillas of Ahmad Shah Masood say that they have started a series of operations which would keep the Soviet-Afghan troops out of the valley. According to a local commander of Jamat-e-Islami, the operations have been launched with the occupation of Karwala thirty miles from the Valley. Attacks were simultaneously carried out on the artillery position in mountains across the border and the entire operation took only an hour.

The guerillas say that some two hundred Afghan troops were either killed or injured while they had to suffer loss of a handful of men.

Two days after the occupation of this place, Afghan soldiers carried out counter-operations near Bharat (ph). About one and a half dozen guerillas were either killed or wounded due to heavy shelling but according to guerillas the attack was repulsed. (Shabnama-Urdu: May 21, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that a terrorist group belonged to Gulbadin band, which had entered the centre of Kapisa province for terrorist activities was wiped out by the Armed Forces.

A leader of the armed extremists Irfan was also reported to have been injured in these operations. Their arms were seized by the Armed Forces. (News-Pushto: May 13, 1988).

Laghman

KNT: An extremist miscreant Shinwar S/o Safdar, resident of Laghman province and member of the Gulbadin band who tried to plant explosives in the area of Pule Mahmoud Khan of Kabul city was apprehended by the security forces before he could do the mischief. (BIA, KNT: May 16, 1988).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: On April 2, Russian-Kabul positions were attacked by the mujahideen in Pul-e-Alam, the provincial centre of Logar. As a result, 43 Russian-Kabul troops, including one Russian adviser, were killed. Some buildings also suffered damage in the attack.

In retaliation, the Soviet-Kabul forces shelled the district of Baraki Barak, killing 20 civilians and injuring 20 others.

On April 6, a military convoy moving from Kabul to Gardez was attacked by the Mujahideen in the area of Safed Sang. Three vehicles were destroyed.

On April 7, the Mujahideen attacked a regime post in the area of Kolangar, killing three soldiers. One mujahid was injured.

On April 30, the Mujahideen attacked Barki Bank. A tank was knocked out and a barrack damaged.

KNT: Two surface-to-surface rockets which were set for firing by extremist groups from Babos village of Puli Alam region, Logar province at the centre of Logar, were also discovered and defused by the security forces. (May 16, 1988).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen heavily shelled Maidan Shehr, headquarter of Wardak province on May 7. The Khad provincial headquarter, a wireless station and some other official buildings were hit.

The Mujahideen also attacked a military convoy near Maidan Shehr. An armoured vehicle and a truck were destroyed.

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below are the major Kabul Radio themes in May 1988 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Pakistan is violating Geneva Agreement by preventing return of refugees, not ending interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and increasing arms supplies to the Afghan Extremists.
2. Geneva Accord paves way for Soviet troop's withdrawal and return of refugees.
3. The people of Pakistan are for implementation of the Geneva Agreements.
4. National Campaign Reconciliation has produced positive results.

Radio Moscow

Given below are the major Moscow media themes in May 1988 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Pakistan and US are violating the Geneva Accord by increasing arms supplies to the Extremists. They are also giving new and subjective interpretations to the Geneva Agreement.
2. Soviet Union fully abide by the Accord and has started withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.
3. The Geneva Accord paves the way for: an end of hostilities, restoration of peace, return of refugees and withdrawal of Soviet troops.
4. Pakistan is involved in the Indian Punjab's deteriorating situation and un-provoked firing on Indian territory.
5. US arms supplies to Pakistan are threatening India's security.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MAY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	54 killed and	16 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	542 killed and	329 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	80 killed and	18 wounded
Defections	:	2454 Kabul troops defected and	614 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	192 killed and	212 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	49 killed and	80 wounded

Material Losses

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses:—

Aircraft	5	LMGs	55	Security Posts	25
Helicopters	5	HMGs	95	Khad Offices	4
Tanks	55	Klashnikovs	4097	PDPA premisis	4
APCs	49	PRGs	32	Admn. Buildings	4
HMV's	91	Rocket		Oil Reservoir	1
Trucks	70	Launchers	4	Wireless station	1
Jeeps	11	Doshaka	10	Bunkers	7
Oil Tankers	1	Rifles	11	Water pump	1
Wireless Sets	23	Barracks	7	Generators	10
Mortars	29	Motor cycles	20	Cannons	3
Trailors	2	Grinovs	46	BM-41	1
Buldozers	1				
Trucks laden with arms	6				

Besides several thousands boxes of heavy and light weapon ammunition were seized by Mujahideen.

Mujahideen Material Losses:

- 1 Vehicle
- 2 HMGs

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MAY 1988 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Losses inflicted to ("Counter-revolutionaries")

Human Losses:

Killed	223	
Captured	27	
Returnees	12,604	(Those availing amnesty voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance and joining SovietKabul ranks).
Civilian Refugees	12,415	
Armed Men Surrendering	189	

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Vehicle	1	truck laden with arms
Dshkh guns	9 + 496	boxes of bullets
Rocket launchers	20	
Kalashnikovs	14	
Explosives	—	
Munition depots	—	
Rounds of ammunition	14,700	
Ground-to-ground missile	66	
"reactivator" units	8	
LMGs	1	
Bases/Hideouts	41	
Mortars + Shells	4 + 800	shells
Missiles	—	
Boxes of Bullets	22	
Quantities of Arms and Ammunition	4	
Anti Vehicle mines	262	
Quantities of food stuff	1	
Recoilless guns	6	
Mines (misc)	210	
Timing devices	75	
Assorted weapons	305	
Horses laden with arms	30	

Losses inflicted by counter revolutionary elements:

Human Losses:

Killed	: 60
Wounded	: 128

Material Losses:

Vehicles 3, Shops 3, Mosques 7, Houses 26, Shoe Factory 1, Beside financial losses worth 6 Million Afs inflicted to a textile mill in Herat.

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN MAY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engage-ments	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	2	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	12	Lashkargarh	1	—
Qandahar	21	Qandahar	6	1
Zabul	11	Kalat Gilzai	—	—
Ghazni	18	Ghazni	4	1
Paktika	5	Sharna	1	1
Paktiya	26	Gardez	—	—
N'ingarhar	20	Jalalabad	—	—
Kunar	7	Chagha Sarai	—	1
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	2	Faizabad	—	—
Takhar	18	Taloqan	—	1
Kunduz	8	Kunduz	—	—
Baghlan	23	Baghlan	6	—
Samangan	—	Samangan	—	—
Balkh	3	Mazar Sharif	—	—
Sar-e-pul	2	Sar-e-pul	—	—
Jozjan	—	Shebergan	—	—
Faryab	10	Maimana	5	—
Badghis	—	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	10	Herat	1	—
Farah	2	Farah	—	1
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	7	Chaghcharan	—	1
Uruzgan	—	Tarin Kot	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	27	Kabul	1	—
Parwan	15	Charikar	6	—
Kapisa	9	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	2	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	2	Pule Alam	—	—
Wardak	4	Koteasro	1	—
TOTAL	266		32	7

APPENDIX — 4

**MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND
SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN MAY 1988
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)**

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	1	1	—	—	2
Hilmand	4	—	—	8	12
Qandahar	2	17	1	1	21
Zabul	—	10	—	1	11
Ghazni	3	13	1	1	18
Paktika	—	4	—	1	5
Paktiya	11	9	3	3	26
Ningarhar	6	12	1	1	20
Kunar	2	5	—	—	7
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	2	—	—	2
Takhar	3	15	—	—	18
Kunduz	—	8	—	—	8
Baghlan	1	21	—	1	23
Samangan	—	—	—	—	—
Balkh	1	2	—	—	3
Jozjan	—	—	—	—	—
Sar-e-pul	—	2	—	—	2
Faryab	1	6	3	—	10
Badghis	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran					
Herat	1	6	—	3	10
Farah	1	1	—	—	2
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	2	4	1	—	7
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	8	18	1	—	27
Parwan	3	12	—	—	15
Kapisa	1	6	1	1	9
Laghman	—	2	—	—	2
Logar	1	1	—	—	2
Wardak	1	1	2	—	4
TOTAL:	53	178	14	21	266

APPENDIX — 5

**PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS
AND RETURNEES IN MAY 1988
(Radio Kabul)**

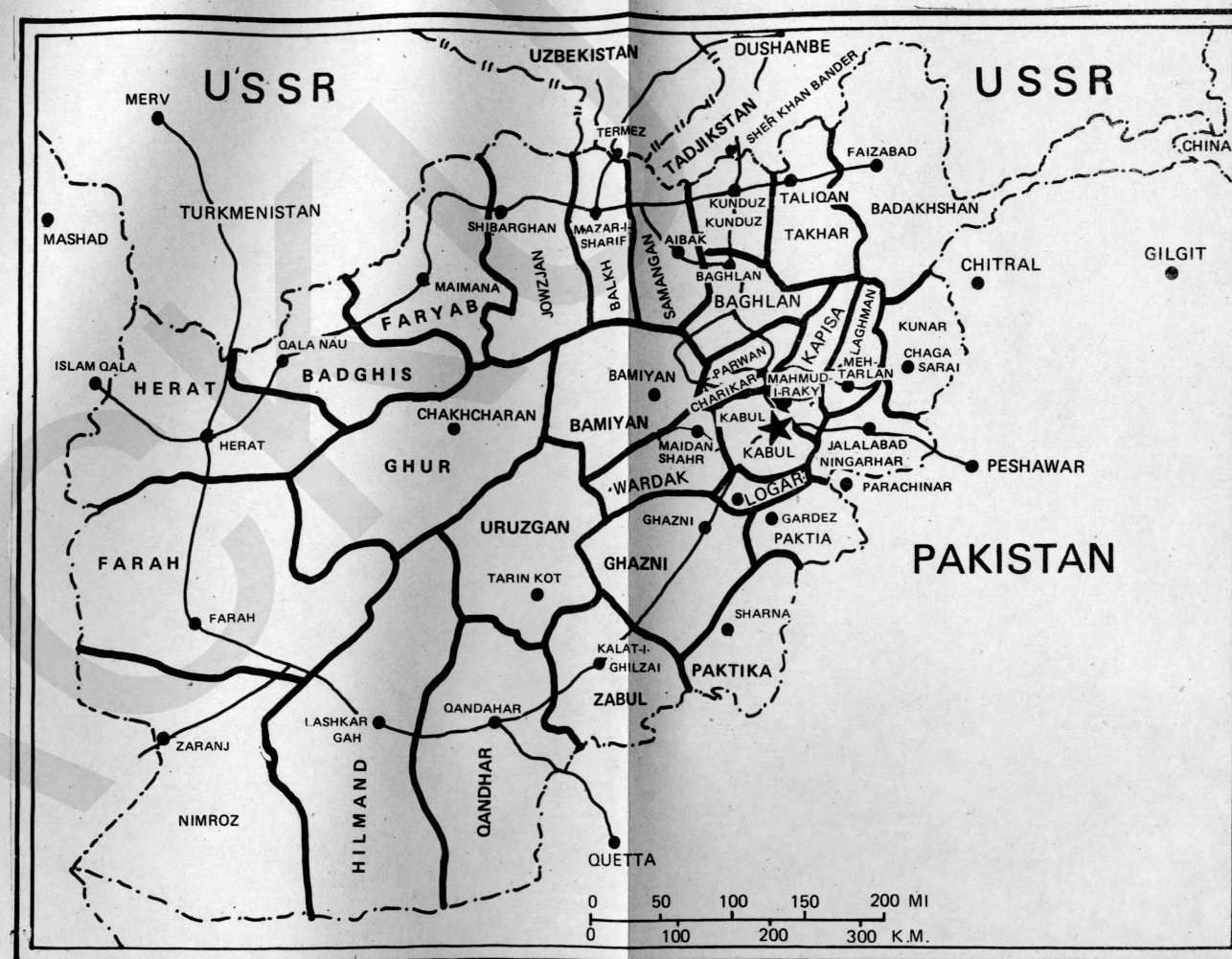
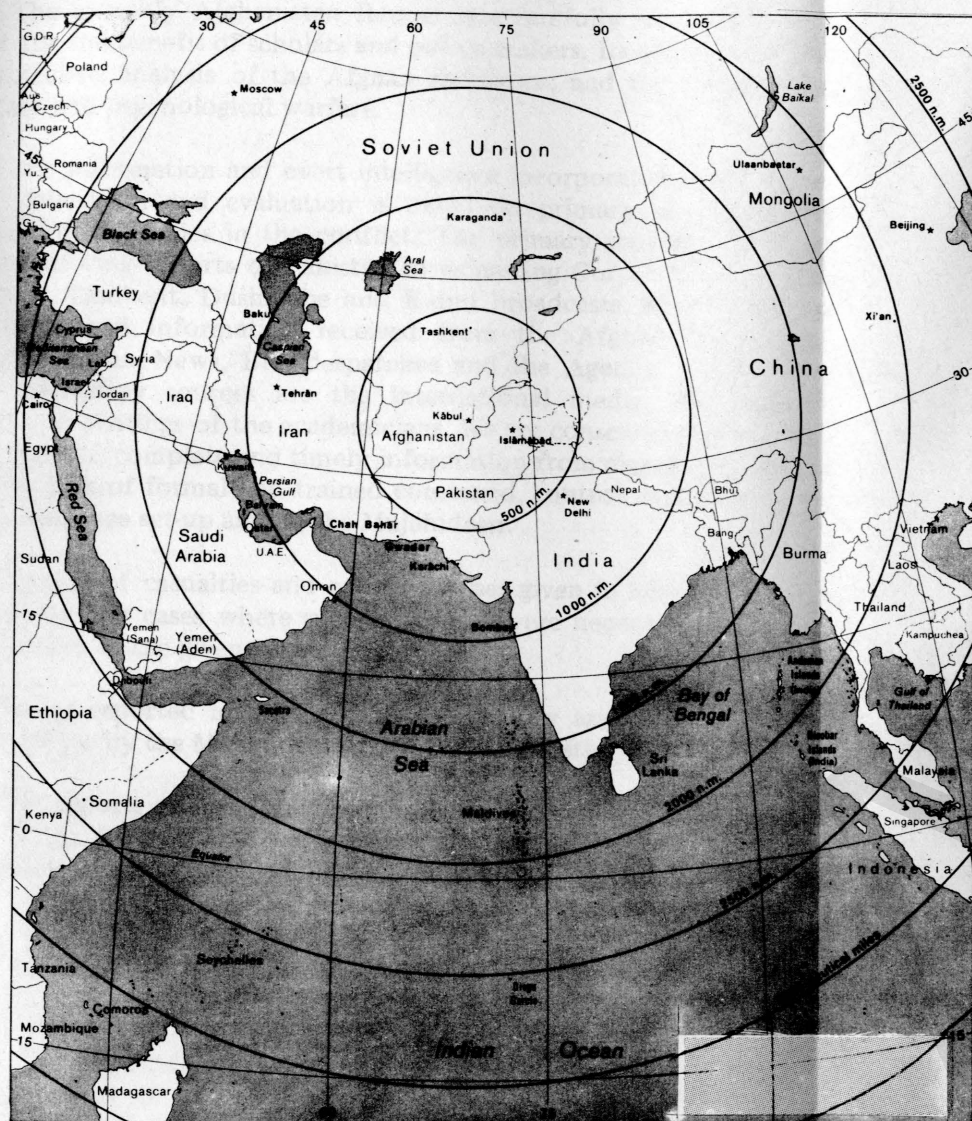
Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Action	Returnees numbers	Members of Armed groups surrendered
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	—	—	—	—
Qandahar	3	—	365	—
Zabul	—	2	—	—
Ghazni	3	1	—	—
Paktika	4	2	—	—
Paktiya	7	11	7,565	—
Ningarhar	6	10	1,190	—
Kunar	2	8	1,125	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	—	—	—	—
Takhar	2	1	—	—
Kunduz	1	1	—	—
Baghlan	1	—	—	—
Samangan	—	—	—	—
Balkh	2	1	—	—
Jozjan	1	—	—	—
Sar-e-pul	—	—	—	—
Faryab	4	4	—	—
Badghis	2	—	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	2	2	—	—
Farah	—	—	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	6	8	1,770	—
Parwan	—	—	—	—
Kapisa	—	—	—	—
Laghman	2	—	—	—
Logar	1	—	400	—
Wardak	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	50	51	12,415	—

APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES IN MAY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses destroyed/ Damaged	Heads of Live- stocks	Date (1988)
		K	W			
Helmand	Kajaki	150	—	30	—	28/4
Kabul	Guldara, Kachkin	6	—	23	—	19/5
Ghazni	Ghazni City	—	—	6	44	5/5
Paktiya	Chamkani	10	—	—	—	5/5
Ningarhar	Kot, Rudat	31	—	20	—	20/5
Ningarhar	Gulabi	—	2	—	—	16/5
Kunar	Barikot	10	—	—	—	6/5
TOTAL 7 INCIDENTS IN 7 PROVINCES		207	2	79	44	

APPENDIX - 7 A



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during May 1988 in 26 Provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Samangan, Jozjan, Bamiyan and Uruzgan.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during April 1988 in 19 provinces. These Provinces are: Qandahar, Zabul, Baghlan, Ghazni, Paktika, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Kunar, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Balkh, Jozjan, Badghis, Herat, Kabul, Kapisa, Laghman and Logar.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Soviet Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, BIA despatches and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Province-wise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during May 1-31, 1988. Appendices 1-7 also incorporate April 1988 incidents reported in May 1988.

II.— THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — MESSAGES, VISITS AND MEETINGS

Messages

Messages on various occasions were sent to, received from and exchanged with the following countries and organisations: Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Hungary, India, Jordan, Pakistan, PLO, OAU, Tunisia, USSR and Yugoslavia.

Visits

President Najibullah leading a high ranking delegation left on May 4 for New Delhi on an official visit at the invitation of Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. The members of the Afghan delegation accompanying President Najibullah to India including Abdul Rahim Hatif, Chairman of the NF Central Council and President of the Supreme Commission for NR, Saleh Mohammad Zeary, Member of Politburo, Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Deputy Prime Minister, Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Col. Gen. Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoi, Minister of Interior, Mohammad Khan Jalalar, Minister of Commerce and Mohammad Ishaq Tokhi, head of political patriotic department of the PDPA CC (Kabul Times, 5 May).

A high ranking delegation of the United Nations led by Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, Coordinator for the United Nations Programmes of Humanitarian and Economic Assistance relating to Afghanistan, arrived in Kabul to hold consultations and discussions with the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan on organizing the cooperation of all United Nations Organizations and repatriation and resettlement of the on-going economic re-structuring of Afghanistan. Included in the 12-member delegation are Head of the UNDP, Assistant and Deputy Director of UNICEF, Assistant Director of Food and Agriculture Organization, Assistant Director UNESCO, Assistant Director of World Health Organization, Director of Regional Branch of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Special Envoy of UNICEF, Special Aide of the Executive Director of World Food Programme, Special Advisor and Aide of Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan (Radio Kabul, 30 May).

A delegation of the CC of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Hoang Binh Son, member and head of the international relations department arrived in Kabul on May 23, at the invitation of the PDPA CC.

The delegation of the Unions of Czechoslovakia Socialist Youth arrived in Kabul on May 2. Later the delegation met the Secretary of DYOA CC, discussions were held on the youth activities in the two countries.

Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for hydrometeorology and environmental control arrived in Kabul on May 2, at the invitation of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for holding talks on future cooperation between the two sides (Kabul Times, 4 May).

Special envoy of the French President and Secretary General of the French Foreign Ministry Yolak Paron (ph) arrived in Kabul on May 26. He is carrying a message from the French President for the Afghan President Najibullah (Radio Kabul, 26 May).

President Najibullah invited Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to visit Afghanistan at a suitable time. This invitation was accepted by Rajiv Gandhi with pleasure (Radio Kabul, 6 May).

Meetings

Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan, while visiting India, on May 6, met R. Venkataraman, President of the Republic of India, in the Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Najibullah said that the visit was of historic significance and would lead to further consolidation of all-sided relations between two countries, India and Afghanistan. The Indian President expressed satisfaction over the bilateral relations between the two countries and thanked Najibullah on his visit to India (Kabul Times, 7 May).

According to another report from Delhi, President Najibullah on May 6, met the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The two leaders discussed various aspects of Afghanistan-Indian relations, the Geneva accord and the policy of NR in Afghanistan (Kabul Times, 7 May).

Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan met on May 5, Natwar Singh, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs. They discussed the process of NR in Afghanistan and Indian offer to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan (Kabul Times, 8 May).

Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Deputy Prime Minister and President of the State Committee for Repatriates received on May 3 at the Gulkhana Palace Maj. Gen. Rauli Helminen, Head of the UN Observer Group. Mohammad Hassan Sharq informed him about the facilities provided by the government for repatriates. Col. Gen. Mohammad Rafie, Minister of Defence also met in his office Maj. Gen. Rauli Helminen. Mohammad Rafie expressed the readiness of the Defence Ministry to assist in the implementation of the Geneva accord (Kabul Times, 5 May).

President Najibullah received on May 6, in New Delhi a delegation of the leading body of All-India Peace and Solidarity Organization. The delegation informed the Afghan President of the activities of the organization for mobilizing public opinion in India in favour of the Geneva accords and national reconciliation policy (Kabul Times, 8 May).

2 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Session of the Politburo CC Held

A session of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA was held on May 6, in Kabul, Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan and General Secretary of the PDPA CC briefed the session on the visit of the Afghan delegation to India (Kabul Times, 8 May).

A session of the politburo of the CC of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was held on May 10. The session considered the incident of rocket firing by Mujahideen on May 9 during Ramadhan on busy parts of Kabul city, killing and injuring several persons. Condemning the criminal acts of the anti-peace elements, the politburo expressed its sympathies for the victims and directed security department to ensure full security in the city and Kabul province (Kabul Times, 12 May).

Last Session of RC Held

An extraordinary session of the Revolutionary Council of the RA, presided over by Najibullah was held on May 26 in Kabul. The session as per its agenda discussed and assessed some proposals and amendments and endorsed a number of legislative decrees. The following drafts of laws on the organisation and powers of attorneys, Constitutional Council, passport, land tax, amendment to the law on taxes, tax exemption to private entrepreneurs of Qandahar province, amendment to the law on trade, amendment to custom laws as well as legislative decrees proposed by the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the President, decree on the amendment to article 7 of the law on rights and privileges of handicapped and war disabled and families of martyrs of revolution, legislative decree on the amendment to clause one of article 23 of the law on imprisonment, legislative decree on cadastre, and the decree on the law on orders and honorary titles of the RA were unanimously endorsed in the session. A resolution was also passed on the new administrative unit of Sar-e-pul province. On the proposal of the Council of Ministers, the merger of the Ministries of Domestic and Foreign Trade into one combined ministry was approved by the session. This was the last session of the RC. According to the Article 146 of the

constitution, with the formation of a National Assembly, the RC would stand dissolved (Kabul Times, 28 May).

Election's Results

A session presided over by Abdul Rahim Hatif, Chairman of the Central Election Commission, summed up the results of the elections to national assembly and notified the deputies and senators elected to national assembly.

The deputies of the people were elected in 184 constituencies out of 234 constituencies to the House of Representatives. 48 seats in the House of Representatives have been kept vacant for the Opposition. In constituency No. 96 of Takhar province, the elections were annulled for violation of law, and elections did not take place in constituency No. 233 of Jaji district due to lack of organization.

Senators were elected from 51 out of 64 constituencies and 13 seats have been kept vacant for the Opposition. In addition, 64 senators were elected under the law on elections from the councils of the people's deputies (Kabul Times, 11 May).

National Assembly Inaugurated

The newly elected National Assembly was officially inaugurated with a speech by President Najibullah at a joint session on May 29. The President in his inaugural address spoke on the historic significance of the formation of National Assembly as the highest legislative organ of the country, comprehensive consolidation and perfection of the new political system. The first joint session of the house of representatives and senate met in the Stor Palace of the Foreign Ministry (Kabul Times, 30 May).

Opening Afghanistan National Parliament for its first session since 1973, the Afghan leader Najibullah has appealed to the Mujahideen for immediate ceasefire. The Mujahideen have been offered fifty seats in the new Assembly despite their boycott of the national elections in April in which 324 members were elected for the two houses (VOG, 30 May).

A Session of the Senate Held

A session of the senate was held on May 28, in Kabul presided over by Sayed Helaluddin Badri, pro tem chairman. Mohammad Omar Satih, Secretary of the Credentials Commission presented the report of the commission which was approved by majority of votes after discussions. Kabir Ranjbar, presidential aide on councils read out the decree of President Najibullah on the appointment of Senators to the National

Assembly. Identification cards were distributed to the senators at the session (Kabul Times, 29 May).

Kabul Mayor Elected

Mohammad Hakim was elected Mayor of Kabul city at an extraordinary session of people's deputies of Kabul city on May 28. 28 candidates had been registered for the post with the executive committee of the people's deputies. 346 out of 465 deputies from the 11 precincts of Kabul city attended the session. Voting for the Mayor's post was supervised by the Kabul city election commission to National Assembly (Kabul Times, 29 May).

New Appointments

President Najibullah has issued the following decree in connection with the appointment of Prime Minister. "For the purpose of the maximum implementation of the NR policy in accordance with the powers vested in me under the constitution under section 3 of the clause 85 of the said constitution, I have appointed Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq as Prime Minister designate so that he could form the new government and under clause 101 of the constitution of the country he should explain the internal as well as foreign policy of his government in the first session of the Ulusi Jirgah (National Assembly). I am confident that with the formation of new government which will be of a complete coalition in nature, a way will be paved for the participation of all the political forces of the country who are ready to cooperate at this historic sensitive phase of the country for the achievement of national reconciliation and establishment of peace and ending war (Radio Kabul, 26 May).

On the proposal of Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan and approval of President Najibullah, the following persons have been appointed as governors of provinces:—

1. Fazil Ahmad Toghian (Kabul Province).
2. Fazlul Haq Khaliqiar (Herat Province).
3. Noor-ul-Haq Ulomi (Qandahar Province).
4. Wakil Azam (Ningarhar Province).
5. Shah Nazar Helmandwal (Helmand Province).
6. Mohammad Sharif (Balkh Province).
7. Hakim Salah (Kunduz Province).
8. Sayed Nasim Maihnparast (Jauzjan Province).
9. Abdur Rahman (Faryab Province).
10. Ghulam Sidiq Dawlatzai (Samangan Province).

11. Abdul Khalil Rostaqi (Takhar Province).
12. Khodainazar Sirmohar (Nirmoz Province).
13. Barikzai (Paktia Province).
14. Nasrullah Waziri (Patika Province).
15. Mohammad Kabir Tokhi (Zabul Province).
16. Gharib Hussein (Sar-e-Pul Province).
17. Abdul Wahid Sarwari (Ghazni Province).
18. Mutasimbellah (Kapisa Province).
19. Mawlawi Mustafa (Farah Province).
20. Mohammad Zariief (Wardak Province).
21. Shaikh Azim Ahmadi (Bamian Province).
22. Amanullah Sipahi (Uruzgan Province).
23. Haji Abdullah (Badghis Province).

(Kabul Times, 14 May).

In accordance with the recommendations of the Afghan Council of Ministers and the approval of the Afghan President, Abdur Rahim Karwal has been appointed Transport Minister and Fateh Mohammad Karim as Minister for Small Industries and Food (Radio Kabul, 2 May).

Mr. Sultan Ali Keshtmand has been made Secretary of the Central Committee of Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (VOA, 27 May).

The New Prime Minister

Afghan President Dr. Najibullah has appointed Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq as the new Prime Minister of Afghanistan.

The most distinguished feature of Dr. Sharq seems to be his non-affiliation with any political party and this factor is of great importance in the context of Dr. Najibullah's efforts to include different forces and elements in the political field in a large number under his national reconciliation policy. Dr. Sharq's inclusion is expected to tempt other elements to join the government. Sixty-two years old Mohammad Hassan Sharq is a renowned personality in Afghanistan. Dr. Sharq has been affiliated with different governments following his appointment as Chief of the then Prime Minister Daud's Secretariat in 1973. Mohammad Daud lost the confidence of King Zahir Shah in 1963. At that time Dr. Sharq also separated himself from the government and worked as physician for ten years. Later, Dr. Sharq got involved in palace intrigues and rebellion against King Zahir Shah in 1973 and as a result of this coup, Zahir Shah was toppled in a bloodless coup and his cousin Daud became President. Firstly, Sardar Daud appointed him as Deputy Prime Minister and later he was sent to Japan as Ambassador. Ten years ago, when Sardar Daud was deposed and killed as a result of Saur Revolution and the present ruling class seized power, Dr. Sharq went into

political oblivion. Leaders of the ruling Peoples Party, Noor Mohammad Tarakai and afterwards Hafizullah Amin kept him under house arrest but when the Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan and leaders of the Parcham faction came into power, Dr. Sharq's fate changed. He was appointed Afghan Ambassador to India in 1980. During his Ambassadorial tenure Dr. Sharq not only maintained Kabul's relations with India but further strengthened them. Although Dr. Sharq does not belong to the ruling party but he is said to have close ties with the Parcham faction in Farah province led by Dr. Najibullah. It will be pre-mature to say that as to what extent Prime Minister will be powerful under the new system. Sultan Ali Kistmand who has been removed from the Prime Ministership was not powerful politically (BBC, 27 May).

Afghan Resistance

One party out of the Seven Party Alliance of the Afghan guerillas, Ittehad-e-Islami has announced that it is shifting its headquarters from Peshawar to Afghan areas. It has not been made clear as to where these offices are being shifted to but the leader of the Party Professor Sayyaf said that he did not take the decision under the pressure of Pakistani government (BBC, 16 May).

The Afghan resistance hardliners are said to have offered a limited general amnesty to those Afghan troops who will lay down their arms after Soviet troops pull out from Afghanistan. Just one day prior to the beginning of the Soviet troops in their respective area. Mr. Hikmatyar told newsmen in Peshawar that if the Kabul troops did not take advantage of the proposed general amnesty then they will have to face the Islamic Sharia laws (VOA, 15 May).

The Afghan Resistance Alliance has rejected the proposed talks with the UN envoy, Mr. Diego Cordovez on the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan. The Afghan leader Gulbadin Hikmatyar has said that the alliance still intends to establish its own interim government inside Afghanistan (VOA, 13 May).

In Pakistan, the Seven Party Alliance of the Afghan Mujahideen has rejected the appointment of the new Afghan Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq. In a statement issued in Peshawar the alliance described him as a Communist and said that his appointment is of no political or military importance (BBC, 29 May).

It is reported that recently clashes took place between armed extremists group belonging to Gulbadin circles and Nasir group in Karabagh district of Ghazni province. In this clash a large number of extremists belonging to both groups including the leader of Nasir group were killed (Radio Kabul, 25 May).

King Zahir Shah Wishes to Return Home

President Najibullah of Afghanistan has invited the former King Zahir Shah to return home to take part in a coalition government to be set up after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan (BBC, 6 May).

Afghanistan's former King Zahir Shah has said that the time is not ripe for his return to Afghanistan. In an interview with a West German magazine, Zahir Shah expressed the wish of returning to the country but remarked that his return is not upto him. In his recent interview with an Italian daily REPUBBLICA he said that he is prepared to devote himself for Afghanistan. However, he added he knows that Afghanistan now cannot accept monarchy (BBC, 3 May).

Najib Confident About His Regime's Survival

The Afghan President Dr. Najibullah has said that his government will survive even after the Soviet withdrawal. He appealed to the rebels to negotiate with the government and observe a ceasefire. He also argued the international community to cooperate in building a strong Afghanistan (AIR, 15 May).

Speaking in an interview with the Soviet weekly New Times, Colonel General Mohammad Rafie said while commenting on western media assertions that the Afghan army "Won't hold out even for a day" following the Soviet troops withdrawal. He said "we are aware that after the withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingent, the whole responsibility for protecting our people's gains will lie on the shoulders of the Afghan army. I personally have no doubt that our armed forces and all their services will staunchly defend the fatherland and rebuff forays by any enemy. Over the years of the undeclared war the Afghan army has grown in number, got stronger ideologically and organizationally, been tempered in battles and learnt combat techniques from Soviet troops. The army and the border guard forces, he said were fully provided with modern military equipment enabling them to protect industrial centre and supply lines reliably" (Kabul Times, 16 May).

Afghanistan's President Najibullah told the foreign correspondents gathered to watch the start of the Soviet pull out, that I could state confidently that the present Afghan government will last because we strive for peace. He said our opponents offer the Afghan people war and the people hate this. Najibullah renewed his offer to all Afghans to join his NR policy and said key posts in the new cabinet will be offered to the members of the opposition, provided they lay down their arms and engage in a political dialogue (Radio Moscow, 17 May).

3 — NATIONALITIES POLICY

Jirgahs Held in Support of Geneva Accords

A largely attended peace jirgah of Paghman residents was held on 25 May, in Kushak village for consolidation of peace and implementation of the programme of national reconciliation (Kabul Times, 26 May).

Elders and Chieftains of Salam Khel, Esa Khel, Paitoz Khel, Shali Khel, Kampal Khel and Ahmad Zai tribes of Paktia province expressed full readiness in a tribal Jirgah held on May 23, in Gardez city to realize the Geneva accords and ensure peace and tranquility in Afghanistan. Sulaiman Laeq, Minister of Tribes and Border Affairs spoke at the Jirgah about the situation around Afghanistan and role of the Geneva accords in ensuring countrywide peace (Kabul Times, 25 May).

Elders, chieftains and nomadic tribes of Paktia province in a tribal jirgah welcomed the Geneva accords and expressed their support to the national reconciliation policy. Sulaiman Laeq, Minister of Frontier and Tribal Affairs addressed the jirgah on the significance of the Geneva accords and the policy of the Republic of Afghanistan. He urged the residents of the region to welcome the repatriates (Kabul Times, 14 May).

In a tribal jirgah, elders and chieftains of districts in Kabul province and people's deputies of Kabul city expressed their readiness for ensuring peace in their regions. Col. General Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoi, Minister of Interior explained the Geneva accords and realisation of countrywide peace. He urged the chieftains to cooperate with the security forces for foiling the plots of the Mujahideen groups (Kabul Times, 16 May).

Elders, chieftains and representatives of Ahmadzai and Tota Khel tribes of Paktia province held a tribal jirgah and expressed their support to the Geneva accords. Sulaiman Laeq, Minister of Frontier and Tribal Affairs spoke at the jirgah explaining the Geneva accords and urged the chieftains of Paktia province to take active part in realizing the NR policy and ensuring peace (Kabul Times, 16 May).

Religion

To mark the holy month of Ramadhan 130 Qaris of Mosques, Takias, and Jamaat Khanas of Shi'ite sect were given Afghanis 2,97,500 by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Religious trusts in a ceremony held on May 11, in Wazir Akbar Khan mosque Kabul (Kabul Times, 14 May).

Ulema, clergymen and other citizens of Ghazni province joined in a gathering held at the congregational mosque and decided to establish

a union called Ansarullah to serve the sacred religion of Islam. Explaining the present situation in the country arising from the undeclared war, Mawlawi Abdul Salam Khadem said that the union of Ansarullah would be based on the principles of Islam, patriotism, freedom, independence and would work for justice, peace and the right of the people. Representing ulema and clergy, Mawlawi Abdul Qadir, Chairman of the provincial council of ulema and clergymen of the province said that the objectives of the union were in full conformity with Islam and Shariat (Kabul Times, 5 May).

The ten member delegation of Ulema (clergymen) of Tajik-SSR who had come to Kunduz province to participate in Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations, returned home recently. The delegation participated in the religious rites, visited mosques, takias and holy places and discussed a programme of direct cooperation between the four congregational mosques of Kunduz city and four congregational mosques of Tajikistan with the officials (Kabul Times, 22 May).

4 — ECONOMY

Protocols Signed

A protocol on the work of third stage of Salang Galleries for rehabilitation of systems of Salang tunnel, costing 3 million roubles to be met from the gratis aid of the USSR was concluded on May 5, between the Ministry of Construction of the RA and the USSR Institute of Techno-Stroi-Export (Kabul Times, 8 May).

A protocol on cooperation between the chambers of commerce and industries of Afghanistan and Bulgaria was signed in Kabul recently. The Bulgarian delegation during its stay in Kabul held meetings with state officials and also exchanged views with private entrepreneurs on starting joint ventures. As a result 22 projects were chosen for fruit juice, canned vegetables, sausage, soft drinks, ready-made cloths, towels, washing and processing of wool, dry fruit processing and packaging, medicines, medicinal herbs processing, semi-precious stones, distilled water ampoules surgical cotton and bandage paints, cigarettes, cold storages repair, bakery, dairy products, cosmetic's woollen blankets etc. (Kabul Times, 14 May).

A protocol was signed with the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Relations on the latter's 40 million roubles assistance for a power project in Afghanistan (Kabul Times, 12 May).

Projects Approved — Commissioned

The Standing Commission of the Council of Ministers for domestic

and foreign investment met on May 12 under the Chairmanship of Syed Amanuddin Amin, First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the economic consultative council. On the basis of the policy of NR to attract private investments for development and in accordance with the directives of the constitution the commission approved 17 projects proposed by national entrepreneurs involving an initial investment of 397 million Afghanis and working capital of 686 million Afghanis. These projects are to be set up for construction, leather production, pelt processing, food and chemical industries in the provinces of Herat, Qandahar, Ningarhar, Jauzjan, Balkh and Kabul city (Kabul Times, 15 May).

A project for supplying drinking water was constructed and commissioned at a cost of 12 million Afghanis in Deh Yahia area of Deh Sabz district Kabul province. The project will meet the drinking water requirements of about 30,000 people of Deh Yahia, Bakhtiari and Tara Khel villages (Kabul Times, 29 May).

Two deep wells to tackle shortage of drinking water in Mazar-e-Sharif were inaugurated on May 8. The wells have been dug at a total cost of 7 million Afghanis from the state development budget (Kabul Times, 10 May).

The Deh Sabz Kiln built with Bulgarian assistance is expected to be commissioned in the middle of next year. The annual production capacity is estimated at 60 million bricks. About 800 million Afghanis have so far been spent on this project (Kabul Times, 29 May).

Three-fourth of the total foreign assistance component of the first five year plan (1986-91) of the RA will be met by the Soviet Union. Over 130 important projects are to be built for the country's development with Soviet aid during the plan period. In the current annual plan the total volume of foreign aid is estimated at 223.3 million dollars, of which 81% will be provided by the Soviet Union (Kabul Times, 23 May).

Projects in Private Sector

As many as 320 projects are functioning in different fields of which 235 are in the capital and the rest in the provinces. In the years after April Revolution 491 projects have been registered in the private sector. Of these 256 projects have been commissioned. This figure indicates a considerable increase as compared to the projects commissioned in the pre-revolution years. Last year the private factories produced goods worth 4.5 billion Afghanis i.e. the fulfilment of plan by 94.4%. Out of the above, chemicals worth 166.4 million Afghanis, metal works 180.08 million, light industry 1,114.3 million, foodstuffs 2,464.87 million, drugs 362.8 million, construction materials 0.74

million, paper and carpentry 28.3 million and others 176.75 million were produced, marking the fulfilment of plans by 135.6, 111, 93.1, 200, 63, 68.5, 63.5% respectively. Last Afghan year, establishment of 37 Afghan-Soviet joint projects with an initial capital of 4,523 million Afghanis was approved. As many as 59 small and medium projects began functioning, of which 40 were rehabilitated and reactivated. An agreement on 171 industrial projects was concluded between the authorities of the RA and those of the Soviet Union. It is planned to tackle systematically the prevailing problems of this sector like the shortage of raw-materials, power energy, spares and marketing etc. The value of gross factory production in this sector is anticipated at 4.9 billion Afghanis (estimated at 1988 costs). This figure could be 8.7% more than that of 1987 (Kabul Times, 3 May).

Forty-seven projects of private entrepreneurs were set up last year in the capital and provinces, reports BIA. The projects which have a working capital of Afghanis 500,000,000 include in light industries, foodstuffs, chemicals, metal works, carpentry, tailoring, handicrafts and non-alcoholic beverages and employ 1,200 workers. The projects are exempted from custom duties for five years (Kabul Times, 3 May).

To further encourage the private sector and its effective contribution to the growth of national economy, a number of laws were passed last year, said Syed Amanuddin Amin, First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Economic Consultative Council. The standing commission of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers for private investment had approved last year 119 private and joint undertakings with a total initial capital of 2,385 million Afghanis and final capital of 6,976 million Afghanis. The projects are in the spheres of foodstuffs and light industries, chemicals, construction, agriculture and live stock breeding, vehicle repair workshop, technical services, project planning, carpentry and stone dressing etc. (Kabul Times, 17 May).

The Aziz Zadah Super Chocolate Factory recently commissioned in the private sector with government assistance. It has a capital investment of 55 million Afghanis and could produce annually 693 tons of chocolates. The factory operates on machinery imported from the GDR and produces 2,520 kgs of sweets daily. It imports various ingredients from India and Holland, Aziz Zadah Super Chocolate Factory has received this year seven million credit of Industrial Development Bank and will receive another 23 million shortly (Kabul Times, 23 May).

Construction

Over 1,000 apartments are to be built at a cost of 1,500 million Afghanis in the current Afghan year in third and fourth microrayans

according to the plan. Besides residential blocks, construction of a school and a kindergarten have also been included in the plan for the area. Last year 111 projects were implemented and plans for 69 projects prepared by the Ministry of Construction, said Nazar Mohammad, Minister of Construction. Last year construction plan estimated at 3,846 billion Afghanis was over fulfilled. The plan was overfulfilled by 13% (Kabul Times, 10 May).

Banie Construction Unit last year built over 97,000 cu m volume worth over 815 million Afghanis, in 38 construction projects and implemented its plan by 125%. There are over 2,300 workers and over 100 engineers and technicians on the payrolls of the unit. Banie Construction Unit began functioning in 1975 with an initial capital of 45 million Afghanis, which now touches over 500 million Afghanis. The main activity of the Unit is housing projects, administrative, cultural and industrial establishments, water supply schemes and health centres (Kabul Times, 22 May).

The work of second stage of Kabul airport expansion costing a total of 2,176.75 million Afghanis has been completed with the USSR assistance. An expenditure of 1,089 million Afghanis was met from the state development budget and 21.757 million dollars from the long-term credit of the Soviet Union. The project includes extension and asphaltting of runways, construction of three control towers, power stations, fire protection, drainage and water supply, local flights terminal and a 300 lines telephone exchange (Kabul Times, 23 May).

The expansion work of a number of airports in the provinces which started last year has been completed. A spokesman for the Ministry of Civil Aviation said that the work included the basic repairs of Balkh airport runways for safe flights and two of its hangers have been completed at a cost of 50 million Afghanis. Also, the basic repair of Sheberghan airport (4 million Afghanis Project) and the airports of Khawaja Ghar of Takhar province and Maimana city has been completed at a cost of 14.58 and 9 million Afghanis respectively. The expansion work of the airports in Herat and Qandahar provinces will cost 23 million Afghanis when completed. It has progressed by 60% so far (Kabul Times, 28 May).

Imports and Exports

Afghanistan has agreed to buy tea from India. The details of the four years arrangement are to be finalised soon. An agreement for the supply of 2,000 tons of tea bag has already been finalised. This was discussed in a meeting between the Afghan Commerce Minister, Mr. Mohammad Khan Jalalar and the Indian Finance Minister Mr. Tewari

in Delhi on May 5, 1988. The Afghan Minister stressed his government's desire to promote joint venture in his country with technical and financial assistance from India (AIR, 6 May).

The medicinal herbs export enterprise of the Commerce Ministry exported in the last Afghan year (ended March 19, 1988) 14,429 tons of medicinal herbs, against 25,219 million dollars. This figure indicates the 125% fulfilment of annual plan and an 167% increase over exports in the year 1986-87. 3,000 varieties of medicinal herbs are found in Afghanistan. Of these 650 varieties enjoy particular economic significance. Countries like Czechoslovakia, Italy, France, Sweden, the United States, Japan, Arab Countries, India and Pakistan are the main buyers of these medicinal herbs. India was the biggest buyer last year (Kabul Times, 7 May).

Banking

Bank-e-Milli Afghan extended during last Afghan year (ended 19 March 1988) 1875.57 million Afghanis loans for import and 1308.31 million Afghanis for export to private entrepreneurs and national traders reports BIA. Import credits totalling 2422.95 million Afghanis were recovered during this period which shows 5.25% increase. Recovery of export credits last year showed a 15% increase. A Bank source told BIA that 15202.48 tons of goods from Peshawar and Chaman and 7236.30 tons from the Soviet Union were imported and 3150 tons exported through the forwarding services department of the Bank. The Bank earned over 79 million Afghanis from the transactions (Kabul Times, 7 May).

Agriculture

Balkh: Consumer goods and agricultural products costing 108.358 million Afghanis were sold by the Union of Peasants Cooperatives of Balkh province during last year. A spokesman of the Union said that now 26 consumer and handicraft cooperatives with a membership of 9,340 and capital of 16 million Afghanis are functioning in Balkh province. Through these cooperatives materials were distributed cheaper than the market price (Kabul Times, 9 May).

Qandahar: Two agricultural cooperatives, with a membership of 805 peasants and a capital of 365,000 Afghanis were inaugurated on 10th anniversary of April Revolution at Maiwand district, Qandahar province recently. In order to help peasants of the district, 450 tons of fertilizer, 250 bags of improved wheat seeds, pesticides and insecticides were distributed to members of the cooperatives (Kabul Times, 7 May).

Three agricultural cooperatives with a membership of 396 and

total capital of 200,000 Afghanis were set up recently on the eve of the 10th anniversary of April Revolution at the Daman district, Qandahar province. 1,000 tons of fertilizer, 400 bags of improved wheat seeds and pesticide were distributed to members of peasants cooperative during April-May 1988 (Kabul Times, 3 May).

Kunduz: Over 59,600 heads of cattle were vaccinated by the veterinary department of Kunduz province in the last two months and over 1,700 are receiving treatment in veterinary clinics. Last year, the department vaccinated and treated over 394,000 heads of cattle (Kabul Times, 22 May).

Parwan: To provide more facilities to peasants in the spring sowing campaign over six million Afghanis credit has been given to peasants and members of agricultural cooperatives of Parwan province this year (Kabul Times, 14 May).

In the spring sowing campaign of the current year, an area of 42,450,000 hectares was cultivated with wheat in Parwan province. 6264 tons of fertilizer, which shows an increase of 662 tons as compared to the spring sowing campaign, last year and 200 tons of improved wheat seeds, which shows a two fold increase over last year were distributed as cash and credit to the peasants. Pesticides and insecticides worth 13 million Afghanis were distributed to members of peasants cooperatives and individuals (Kabul Times, 9 May).

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

The Chief of an Official Committee of Refugee Affairs, Mr. Muhammad Hassan Sharq announced that now Afghanistan is prepared to welcome ten lakh Afghan refugees. He said all this is due to the huge Soviet assistance. He claimed that one lakh and ten thousand refugees have so far returned to Afghanistan from abroad (Radio Moscow, 19 May).

The Soviet-backed Afghanistan government has requested the United Nations to provide economic assistance for the rehabilitation of returning Afghan refugees. The Pakistani delegate to the United Nations raised objections to Afghanistan's request and said that Kabul government only controls 20% area of the country. It will not be appropriate to entrust it a prominent role towards rehabilitation of refugees (VOA, 5 May).

A team of the UNHCR has arrived in Kabul. It is going to set up its office there. Dr. Hassan Sharq tells how this institution and UN relief organisations will function in Afghanistan. He said that the Afghan government would allow the UNHCR to function even in the areas which are not under the control of the government. But he said

that the supply of the relief to refugees in such areas would be done only through the United Nations. He said that under the relief programme the relief carrying trucks from Pakistan would be allowed to travel in the border areas. The Afghan Minister further said that other UN agencies would also be able to continue their activities under these very conditions (BBC, 18 May).

The United Nations has estimated that the world organisations will have to spend upto 300 million dollars for return of nearly three million Afghan refugees from Pakistan. This was told by the UN Commissioner for refugees in Geneva. The preparations for the programme spread over 18 months for the return of the refugees now under way is in full swing. Different reports are being received about the latest situation for the return of the refugees. The Soviet news agency TASS reports that more than 10,000 refugees are being provided daily necessary assistance at the reception centres set up by the Kabul government. It is also being said by other sources that Afghanistan has not made any preparations to receive the Afghan refugees (VOA, 7 May).

On the directive of President Najibullah, the State Committee for Repatriates has granted over 432 million Afghanis to the Ministry of Interior to meet the needs of emigrants returning under the Geneva agreements. Last year the Committee gave over 182 million Afghanis to the Interior Ministry for the same purpose, said a spokesman of the Committee to BIA (Kabul Times, 22 May).

A source of the Repatriation Committee for Afghan Refugees, reveals that Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria provided aid to the Repatriation Committee worth two hundred twenty million Afghanis last year. The source informed the Bakhtar News Agency that the aid included blankets, coats, shoes, cloth, building material, medicines and pesticides and cash (Radio Kabul, 10 May).

More than 300 centres to accommodate refugees have been reportedly formed in the Afghan frontier regions. The refugees inflow will increase with the Geneva agreement for political settlement around Afghanistan to come into force on the 15th of May 1988. The Soviet Union has already given one million two hundred and thirty thousand Afghanis worth of aid to the committee for the affairs of the refugees (Radio Moscow, 2 May).

The British government has promised further assistance for the Afghan refugees and British Secretary for Overseas Development, Mr. Christopher has appealed to the Western Countries to provide generous aid for rehabilitation of Afghan refugees. Britain has given 50 million pounds for Afghan refugees since 1979 and just three weeks ago to promise to provide another 10 million pounds. Mr. Christopher stated

that in view of Geneva agreements, the British government wants to provide a maximum amount next year (1989) for advancing the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe while promising this amount stressed in particular that the amount should not be provided through the Afghan government not recognised by Britain and other western countries. Mr. Christopher said that most of the British funds will be spent through international organisations with Iran and Pakistan for return of Afghan refugees as being done at present (BBC, 4 May).

The United Nations has formally nominated Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan to monitor the reconstruction work in Afghanistan. Prince Agha Khan who had been the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will work directly in subordination of the UN Secretary General Mr. Cuellar.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council has adjourned the debate on the economic and social assistance requested for by the Afghan government. The decision was made as a result of Pakistan's protest which says that the request is premature and it will complicate the process of negotiations for an interim agreement. The Deputy President of the Council will hold further consultations with member countries before the decision on the assistance (BBC, 10 May).

India offered all possible assistance to Afghanistan in its massive reconstruction and rehabilitation programme after the return of the refugees. The offer was made by the Finance Minister, Mr. N.D. Tewari when he called on the visiting Afghan President Dr. Najibullah in New Delhi. The two leaders discussed on-going Indian economic cooperation with Afghanistan. Dr. Najib detailed the scope and magnitude of the assistance Kabul will need from international organisations and friendly countries like India. An official spokesman told newsmen that modalities and quantum of assistance will be discussed later (AIR, 5 May).

5 — EDUCATION, YOUTH AND HEALTH

84 schools were added in the year 1987-88 to the number of general education schools in Afghanistan, raising the number to 1325. An Education Ministry source told that 19 schools were established for repatriate's children in the same period, teachers higher training institutions of Herat, Balkh and Ningarhar provinces were upgraded, pedagogic institutes and new teachers training institutes were established in the provinces of Jauzjan and Kunar. 16,300 students passed during this period from general educational schools, higher and intermediate vocational education institutions. 1,300 students graduated from technical education institutions. Over 1,000 returned home after completion of

their education abroad and 1,800 students were sent for higher studies to friendly countries. According to the plan, 47 general education schools are to be started in the current year (Kabul Times, 5 May).

147 students have so far received their master's degree from Kabul University since 1981 when post-graduate courses in different subjects were introduced for the first time in the University. Altogether there are now 1,128 students and 666 teachers in the 13 faculties of the University. The doctorate courses were introduced in 1987 in 17 subjects and 37 students are now studying for their Ph.D. The duration of these courses is four years and run by Afghan and Soviet teachers (Kabul Times, 4 May).

Technical and Vocational Education

Currently there are 20 vocational and technical schools functioning throughout Afghanistan. To train more skilled workers, an industrial pedagogical technicum was newly set up in Kabul. Over 4,000 students are studying in the various vocational technical schools. Over 3,000 skilled workers have so far been graduated from these schools of them 1,000 graduated last year in radio, television, refrigeration, welding, power installation, metal works and mechanical repair etc. The graduates of these schools are appointed in industries. The teaching is conducted by 210 Afghan and 150 Soviet instructors and experts. Every year about 200 students are sent to the Soviet Union for higher education. Over 100 students are introduced to industrial pedagogical technicums abroad. After completion of their studies, they serve as teachers in the same schools. In addition, 30 teachers of the schools are sent every year to the Soviet Union for refresher courses. Over 800 teachers of these schools have been thus sent to the Soviet Union for three months since 1983. Altogether 2,000 students and 300 staff of these schools have used the scholarships of industrial pedagogical technicum of the USSR. The first vocational and technical school was set up in Kabul in 1982. Technical schools for mechanized agriculture were set up in Ningarhar and Balkh province, in 1984. Ten vocational and technical schools will be built in the capital and provinces by the end of 1990. A school for chemical technology and technical school for irrigation will be ready by the end of the current year. A school for mechanized agriculture in Kunduz, Pul-e-Khumri coal industry, Kabul communication AFSOTR transport and civil aviation will also be set up. The Soviet Union has so far given aid valued at 7 million Afghanis (Kabul Times, 7 May).

Military Training in Schools and Universities

Keeping in line with the objective of healthy education and training for the youth to serve the country and the people, boys in universities and schools are imparted military training. The Ministry of Education has prepared a plan for the implementation of the joint resolution of the politburo of the PDPA CC and Council of Ministers on the subject. According to it, the Ministry shall introduce in schools and other educational institutions the programme for patriotic military training and appoint qualified instructors to give training. The youth are eager to join the programme. Another useful experience in this regard has been the introduction of system of patronage of Educational Institutions by units of the armed forces. This enables the students to regularly visit military establishments and get to know the life and work of soldiers and hear from them their actual experience of combat operations. More military camps are to be established this year for students. The Ministry of Defence has given all-round help for realizing the programme of military training in schools (Kabul Times, 29 May).

Youth

A conference on "the policy of NR and the youth of Afghanistan" was opened on May 3, at the auditorium of Kabul University. In the four day conference over 162 papers were read by 355 scholars from 69 educational institutions and social organizations. It was attended by Haider Masood Politburo member, Dr. Abdul Wahid Sarabi, Minister of Higher Education, Prof. G. Ivanovich, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, First Secretary of the DYOA CC, Khudaidad Basharmal head of Science and Public Health Department of the PDPA CC and teachers of Kabul University and Polytechnic Institute (Kabul Times, 5 May).

An exhibition of scientific, technical and artistic works of students of higher education institutions and technical vocational schools was opened on May 22 in Kabul University to mark the 12th anniversary of the DYOA. About 150 scientific, technical and artistic works of students have been put on display in the exhibition which will remain open for five days (Kabul Times, 23 May).

Youth Join Defence Forces

138 youth of Chakara of Qalai Naw centre of Badghis province volunteered to join the revolution defence group on May 13. By now 270 youth in Badghis province have been organised in revolution defence group to defend their region (Kabul Times, 14 May).

95 youth of Khost division recently enlisted in the military

commissariat volunteered for serving in different units of the armed forces.

Over 7,100 youth of Ningarhar have voluntarily enlisted in the military commissariat of Ningarhar and joined the armed forces (Kabul Times, 26 May).

Over 1,100 youth of Kabul city have joined the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and pledged to work for ensuring peace in the region. A report says that the voluntary recruitment of youth to armed forces continues. More than 2,670 youth have registered their names for army service during the last month with the military commissariat in Kabul (Kabul Times, 7 May).

Delegation of Youth Organizations

A delegation of the Union of Czechoslovak Socialist Youth led by its CC Secretary, left Kabul on May 7. A protocol on cooperation was signed between the DYOA and the Union of the Czechoslovak Socialist Youth for 1988-90 (Kabul Times, 8 May).

A delegation of the union of sandinist youth of Nicaragua led by deputy head of the international relations department of its central committee arrived in Kabul on May 22 at the invitation of the DYOA. The delegation met Farid Ahmed Mazdak, first Secretary of the CC of the DYOA and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest (Kabul Times, 23 May).

Health

A protocol on cooperation in public health between the Republic of Afghanistan and the GDR has been concluded in Berlin. The protocol was signed by Sher Bahadur, Afghan Minister for Public Health and his GDR counterpart (Kabul Times, 23 May).

New Health Facilities

A research institute of traumatology, orthopedics and prothesis was set up recently with Soviet assistance in Wazir Akbar Khan hospital in Kabul. Dr. Najibullah Waziri while giving the details said that the orthopedics ward of the hospital was set up with ten beds in 1964 and the number of beds has since increased to 140. The ward had 90 beds in 1980. By setting up the institute the number of beds can be doubled, he said. The Soviet Union has so far gifted medical equipments valued at over two million roubles to the institute and Soviet experts are also working in this hospital. Dr. Waziri said that 130 patients are now under treatment in the orthopaedics ward of the institute. 500 patients

were treated and 3,000 operations carried out last Afghan year (ended 19 March) in the hospital. 30 physicians, 20 nurses and 10 technicians are working at the institute (Kabul Times, 7 May).

The Afghan Red Crescent Society Centre for orthopaedics, prostesis and rehabilitation of the handicapped and disabled, built with the financial and technical assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross was inaugurated on May 9. The centre will produce artificial limbs, wheel chairs, crutches etc. There are at present over 100 disabled and handicapped, undergoing treatment at the centre. The centre is the first example of joint cooperation between Afghan Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross (Kabul Times, 11 May).

A ten-bed polyclinic was inaugurated in Rehman Mena area on May 7. The polyclinic has a staff of 84 medical and service personnel and departments for treatment of various diseases (Kabul Times, 9 May).

A new well-equipped obstetrics and gynaecology hospital will be constructed in the near future in Kabul with Indian assistance. This hospital will have 300 beds (Kabul Times, 12 May).

Health Care for Returning Refugees

The Ministry of Public Health has made arrangements to look after about 22,000 repatriate patients per day in its health clinics set up in peace camps in the border regions of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Repatriates has allocated for this purpose 80 million Afghanis to the Ministry of Public Health this year. The Ministry has so far set up eight health clinics in Islamqala, Nimroz, Farrah, Spinboldak, Qandahar, Urgoon, Jaji Maidan and Torkham. Equipment and medicines valued at Afghanis one million have already been sent to the above clinics. Mobile and regular health teams are also assigned to render health services to the repatriates (Kabul Times, 21 May).

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said that it has chalked out necessary plans to tackle the problems, confronting the Afghan refugees while returning to their homeland after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. A senior official of the ICRC has said that the organisation hopes to set up its humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, particularly for the civilians injured as a result of mines explosions. Special centres will be set up for orthopaedic surgery. The official further said that at present activities of the Red Cross are confined only to Kabul area (BBC, 30 April).

Special Courses for Mother and Child Care

32 midwives who have completed special courses run with the

assistance of WHO and UNICEF have assumed their duties in 30 clinics in Kabul city. The president of the mother and child care department said that 23,000 expectant mothers were visited by midwives and necessary advice was given to them. Also 18,000 children were treated in the hospitals and health centres last year (Kabul Times, 17 May).

Medical Facilities Available in Afghanistan

— Hospitals	— 69
— Polyclinics	— 05
— Mother and Child Care Clinics	— 34
— Family Guidance Association Clinics	— 55
— Health Clinics in Schools	— 51
— Health Clinics in Production Institutions	— 20
— Main Health Clinics	— 122
— Subsidiary Health Clinics	— 7
— Blood Banks	— 20
— X-Ray Centres	— 64

6 — SOCIAL AND CULTURE

Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan

A human rights organisation, Amnesty International has accused Soviet and Afghan troops of carrying out atrocities in Afghanistan over the past 16 months. Amnesty lists a number of attacks on unarmed refugees fleeing to Pakistan, including an incident in which it says a group of about 100 families were apparently lured into a field in Herat province where Afghan government forces opened fire on them. At least 19 people, 7 of them children were said to have been killed. In another case Afghan guerilla prisoners were allegedly killed by Soviet and Afghan troops in a mosque in Paktia province. Amnesty said the prisoners had been tied together inside the mosque and explosives were detonated besides them killing 9 captives and 7 children nearby. Amnesty says human rights in Afghanistan will require particular attention by International Community during the period of uncertainty when Soviet troops start to withdraw later this month (Mid-May, 1988) (BBC, 4 May).

Flood Cause Heavy Damage

Large scale damages has been caused by the floods in the provinces of Takhar, Samangan, Baghlan and Kabul. All citizens are requested to render humanitarian assistance to the flood victims, for which the

office of emergency has opened an account with Da-Afghanistan Bank (Kabul Times, 10 May).

On the directive of the Council of Minister an extraordinary commission has been formed to help the flood victims and assess the extent of damage. The commission headed by Mohammad Hakim, Deputy Prime Minister, met recently and noted that except for the four million Afghanis given to the affected areas, the assistance given by the government is inadequate as compared to the losses. Most of the houses have been completely destroyed and financial loss as are very heavy. To avoid further losses, houses along the banks of Kabul river, were taken over by the government and their costs paid to owners. The owners of houses partly damaged have been given necessary financial help to repair them. The Afghan Red Crescent Society has given 2.7 million Afghanis to help the flood victim in the capital (Kabul Times, 10 May).

Afghan resistance officials say that more than 350 persons have been killed in recent floods in two northern Afghan provinces. The Afghan Islamic Press, based in Pakistan, said the flood has caused by heavy rains on April 30. Afghan resistance reports also said that 25 Afghan army troops were killed when flood water smashed a military base at Ribatak in Samangan province (VOA, 11 May).

Soviet Troops Withdrawal Started

People of Kabul city on May 16 accorded a warm send off to the soldiers and officers of the limited Soviet contingent who had arrived in the capital from Jalalabad on May 15 by showering flowering petals on them (Radio Kabul, 16 May).

65 journalists from Japan, Soviet Union, Canada, America, Britain, Austria, Spain, Jordan and Poland arrived in Kabul on May 13, to witness the ceremonies marking the implementation of the Geneva accords (Radio Kabul, 13 May).

Afghan Government has allowed nearly 200 foreign journalists to visit Kabul on the occasion of the pull out of Soviet troops from Afghanistan (BBC, 14 May).

Pakistan Will Help to Locate Missing Soviet Soldiers

Pakistan has pledged to lend a helping hand in tracing out and return of those Soviet soldiers who are in the captivity of the Afghan Mujahideen. Pakistan's Ambassador in the Soviet Union has given his assurance in Moscow after an appeal to Pakistan by the returning soldiers to intervene in the matter. More than 300 Soviet soldiers are reported to have been missing in Afghanistan (BBC, 28 May).

Death Sentence Awarded

The special revolutionary tribunal has sentenced to death Abdul Bashir s/o Abdul Ghafoor, a resident of Ali Reza Khan street in first precinct of Kabul city for committing treason against the country and setting off a blast in the building of the Ministry of Education (Kabul Times, 17 May).

Culture

President Najibullah presented on May 30, the orders of red banner and people's friendship to Iosif Kobzon, composer and popular Soviet singer and Mrs. Edita Pieha, well known Soviet artist (Kabul Times, 31 May).

The first cultural festival of the RA will be held shortly in the Soviet Union under the direct cultural cooperation agreement between the two countries. A 30 member cultural group (artists) left Kabul for the Soviet Union in this connection. The festival will be held in several cities of the USSR, (Kabul Times, 29 May).

Two Afghan films, "Break of Siege" and "The Land" have been nominated to the 10th international film festival of Asia, Africa and Latin America, which is to be held in Tashkent (Kabul Times, 28 May).

The foundation stone of a TV station in Qalai Nau was laid on May 6 by the Governor of Badghis province. The station will be built at a cost of Afghanis 2,500,000 as envisaged in the protocol on direct co-operation signed with Mari province of Turkmen-SSR (Kabul Times, 9 May).

A Youth Cultural Centre was inaugurated on May 2 in the Third Precinct of Kabul city. This centre has sections for drawing, calligraphy, painting, tailoring, sports and music (Kabul Times, 4 May).

International Museums Day was marked on May 10 in a function held in the National Museum of Afghanistan. The function coincided with the inauguration of a display of the museum's relics by the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Culture. The National Museum of Afghanistan got membership of the International Council for Museums in 1981 (Kabul Times, 11 May).

Exhibitions

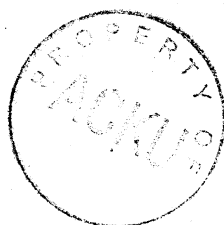
Over 180 posters reflecting the socio-economic and political life of the people of Afghanistan were on display in a poster exhibition of the Artists' Union held recently in Third Microrayan. Some of them were devoted to the first Afghan Soviet joint space flight (Kabul Times, 22 May).

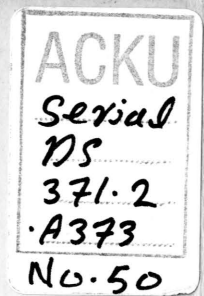
An exhibition of paintings and graphic works of artists of different republics of the Soviet Union opened on May 29, in Kabul. Over 200 works including graphics, wood and stone carvings and embroidery are on display in the exhibition (Kabul Times, 30 May).

An exhibition of paintings of children of the Socialist Republic of Bulgaria was inaugurated in Ehsan Shahid School on the occasion of culture and education day of Bulgaria. Over 80 paintings were on display in the exhibition (Kabul Times, 26 May).

An exhibition on photographics and paintings reflecting the achievements in different spheres of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic opened on May 11, at the State Committee for Culture. The exhibition contains 200 painting, drawing, photographs and handicrafts and will remain open for three days (Kabul Times, 12 May).

ACKU





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